

Here she comes, Miss Transgender SF
The deadline is soon for TGSF's annual
contest to be 'goodwill ambassador.'
page 11

Fighting for equality
CAPE is optimistic in
light of Dem gains in CA.
page 12



Inking Wonder Woman
Interview with gay comics
artist Phil Jimenez.
see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 30 • No. 47 • 23 November 2000

Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971

It's time to talk turkey

by Terry Beswick

Maybe they just missed that brass ring that so many other folks seem to be grabbing so easily of late.

San Francisco is indeed diverse, but it also can be a study in contrasts at times, and this holiday season is no different.

These days, the city is considered ground zero of a virtual modern-day gold rush, and many a rich Web-surfing millionaire seems to be getting richer, albeit largely with stocks or venture capital.

But the much-ballyhooed economic boom has somehow also left some folks just plain broke, and if we look around as we scurry about on our holiday errands, we may note in our midst many of our fellow citizens huddling together for warmth in jury-rigged lean-tos, asking for commuters' spare change at off ramps and on ramps, or otherwise struggling to keep themselves and their loved ones fed, dry, and out of harm's way as best as they can.

An estimated 14,818 people are homeless and in need of emergency shelter on any given night in the city and county of San Francisco, according to the Coalition on Homelessness, which cites as the most recent official figure a 1998 estimate presented by the

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Leno and Hansen land in runoff in District 8

by Katie Szymanski



Supervisor Mark Leno campaigned with supporters in Diamond Heights...

...while challenger Eileen Hansen greeted potential voters at the Church Street MUNI station

You can count the number of votes that made a difference in this year's election on one hand. Just five ballots were responsible for forcing the District 8 supervisor's race into a runoff on December 12.

Incumbent Supervisor Mark Leno certainly would have enjoyed that fistful in his favor, as they proved to be the only thing separating him from the majority plus one necessary to retain his seat. But as of the final count released late on the afternoon of November 15, Leno must face his leading challenger Eileen Hansen, who garnered about 34 percent of the vote.

"We hit the ground running. We were quite prepared that it could have been just under or

over 50 percent," Leno told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "I'm heartened that a majority of District 8, give or take a few votes, recognizes and appreciates the hard work, accomplishment, and total commitment of this office."

The Castro/Noe Valley race has excited the city's grassroots activists, who can claim victory in the first round of elections for proving that monetary influence need not determine the winner; a significant number of propositions and candidates hand-picked by Mayor Willie Brown saw defeat or now face uphill battles, and news that Hansen remained a serious contender helped to energize those voices against the status quo.

"I'm thrilled to see Eileen Hansen in the

runoff," Gary Virginia, a District 8 supervisor candidate who won just under 4 percent of the vote, told the *Bay Area Reporter*. Virginia, a former Mr. San Francisco Leather and a

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Ted Fang promises 'diversity' at new Examiner

by Terry Beswick

Ted Fang was relaxed and confident as he enjoyed a late working lunch of lamb shank at the Double Play saloon on 16th at Bryant Street last Friday afternoon, November 17. Engaging colleagues as they excitedly kicked around ideas on how to make a big splash with the Fang family's latest acquisition, the *San Francisco Examiner*, he was by turns light-hearted and focused as he discussed his new project.

Of course, Fang's *Examiner* will be making waves no matter what it does.

Wednesday, November 22, is expected to bring the first edition of the Fang-published *Examiner*, the daily newspaper that was taken over by the legendary William Randolph Hearst in Barbary Coast San Francisco 113 years ago.

"There are two things about this newspaper," Fang declared. "First, it's

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Weaving a homo-genous Web?

PlanetOut, Gay.com merger means one big giant by Katie Szymanski



Megan Smith and Lowell Selvin of PlanetOut Partners Inc.

Reviews were mixed last week as PlanetOut.com and Gay.com announced their plans to merge and effectively form one leading Internet source for LGBT news, politics, and community exchange. Gay.com's CEO, Lowell Selvin, and PlanetOut's chief, Megan Smith, will pair up to become CEO and president, respectively, of PlanetOut Partners Inc. There will be some workforce reductions, and the companies will likely share an office when the deal is finalized within the year. The once-rival businesses from San Francisco will now pool their resources and individual features to create, as they said, "a multi-faceted global media and services company" that immediately reaches 3.5 million monthly users, not to mention both sides' corporate partnerships.

Some LGBT people expressed concern that the newly-formed alliance would lead to less diversity in media options, excluding marginalized populations and presenting to the world one voice by which all LGBT people will be characterized. PlanetOut, of course, already owns the country's two biggest gay glossies, the *Advocate* and *Out* magazines, and affiliate publications such as the AIDS maga-

page 18 ►



Ted Fang

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Owens goes anti-Green in District 5

Gonzalez supporters say issues will prevail

by Katie Szymanski

A Gore's support for right-wing criminalization policies has resulted in the loss of a huge chunk of his voters, the Black Radical Congress stated earlier this month, noting that 13 percent of African American men — traditionally supporters of Democratic candidates — are ineligible to vote due to incarceration or past felony convictions.

"If Gore and his supporters are honest [about his loss], they may have to blame the Clinton-Gore administration and a criminal justice system that locked up blacks wholesale, over the last eight years, for non-violent offenses," stated the BRC. "It may have cost him the election."

A candidate with all the advantages of an incumbent running during a good economy, Gore refused to emphasize everything from gay rights to George W. Bush's dismal record in Texas during the campaign, a move that angered many progressives. Yet Democrats are eager to blame Gore's apparent presidential loss on Ralph Nader, a Green Party candidate with all the anti-prison and anti-corporate corruption views that Gore lacks, and a person who was in the running for months before Gore belatedly attempted to appeal to progressives with his populist messages.

Now jumping on that bandwagon is Juanita Owens, the sec-



photos by Jane Philomen Cleveland

Green candidate Matt Gonzalez faces Juanita Owens in Dec. 12 runoff.

ond-place candidate in the District 5 runoff for supervisor. In a statement issued last Friday, November 17, Owens expressed dismay at her opponent Matt Gonzalez's decision to join the Green Party "at a time when the Green Party's dividing of progressives has apparently handed the presidential election to George W. Bush."

"While respecting the right of every American to choose a political party, I am troubled that Matt Gonzalez, my opponent for supervisor in District 5, has left the Democratic Party to join the Green Party," Owens said in her statement.

Yet Owens wasted no time simultaneously applauding Gonzalez's move, noting that "I am proud to be the sole Democrat in

this race. District 5 is predominantly Democratic."

It is a campaign tactic that is transparent and downright silly, say Gonzalez's supporters, many of whom are Democrats but either voted Green or punched the hole for Gore with great reservation.

"District 5 is one of the most liberal districts in the city. Matt Gonzalez matches the politics of that district, which is authentic representation," Robert Haaland, vice president of the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club, told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "Juanita Owens does not."

Haaland, a queer Democrat who lives in District 5 and is supporting Gonzalez over the openly lesbian Owens, said Owens has consistent-

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Castro to light up holiday tree on Thurs.

by Terry Beswick

When the holiday season descends on a bustling commercial neighborhood, one expects the usual random array of faux greenery, sprayed-on snow, and recycled tinsel.

The Castro, however, is not just another commercial strip, and for residents and merchants alike, the holidays are more than a chance to layer on some glitz.

In this festive neighborhood, it seems, when the solstice/Christmas/Hanukkah holiday season rolls around like everywhere else, it's all about the tree, as well as the glitz.

And size matters, too.

"It'll be bigger than last year," hinted Merchants of Upper Market and Castro President Patrick

Batt, "and decorated in a manner that will be enjoyable both night and day."

On Thanksgiving Day, November 23, the neighborhood's holiday tree for 2000 will be helping to spread good cheer in its usual spot near the corner of 18th and Castro streets.

Batt, owner of Mercury Mail Order and Auto Erotica on 18th Street, has been busy making his annual rounds garnering financial contributions from neighborhood businesses to help pay for the tree and its decor and has met with some success.

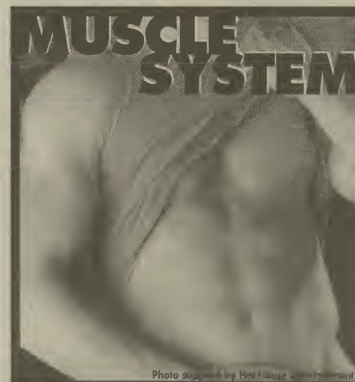
Five businesses — Alternative Mortgage Sources, Arcadia Health Care, San Francisco Badlands, Herth Real Estate, and the Walgreens on Castro Street — have each donated \$500 to the cause.

Other neighborhood businesses and individuals have made con-

tributions as well, but Batt said the total estimated cost of the tree, its decorations, and associated costs will approach \$6,000. He is hoping additional contributors will come forward to help with the growing annual project.

"Once again, Delancey Street Services will be erecting and decorating the holiday tree [on Thanksgiving Day]," said David Bach of MUMC. "We welcome everyone to come and view the decorating of the tree and we offer special thanks to the major contributing sponsors of this Castro neighborhood tradition." ▼

Donations may be made payable to "MUMC Holiday Tree Fund" and sent to: 2000 Tree Fund, MUMC, 584 Castro Street, PMB 333, San Francisco, CA 94114.



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COMMUNITY NEWS

Milk March Monday

by Katie Szymanski

This year's 22nd annual Harvey Milk-George Moscone Memorial March will mean more than usual, as the annual event will not only commemorate the late gay supervisor and late mayor, but will celebrate the return of district elections, a process largely credited with Milk's election in 1977. District elections were scrapped after Milk was murdered by fellow Supervisor Dan White, in part because it was felt that the districts were fighting

against each other instead of for the city. White's murder of Milk on November 27, 1978, also played into the decision to elect supervisors citywide.

Today, the city has come full circle; voters approved a return to district elections several years ago and they started this year. Nine of the city's 11 districts have runoff elections next month; in most of those districts, the candidates are aligned either with Mayor Willie Brown or Board of Supervisors President Tom Ammiano.

With district elections already

showing the voice of the people prevailing, Milk would have been proud. The public is invited to march in his memory and for all that he accomplished this Monday, November 27, from 6 to 8 p.m. Gathering begins in front of Milk's old camera shop at 575 Castro Street. The march goes down Market Street to City Hall, where speakers – including Ammiano – will address the crowd. The Milk March, sponsored by the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club, is a community event; friends and family are encouraged to attend. ▼

Harry Hay Recovery Fund seeks donors for home care

by Terry Beswick

Last Saturday, a half-century anniversary of lesbian and gay rights was quietly celebrated at San Francisco's New Main Library.

The occasion also served to note that Harry Hay, who was to be guest of honor at the event sponsored by the Library's James C. Hormel Lesbian and Gay Center, is alive and getting better in San Francisco.

Though Hay, 88, was still hospitalized recovering from colon cancer surgery and therefore was not able to attend the event, John Burnside, Hay's partner of 37 years, read remarks Hay had prepared for the occasion.

Several speakers talked of his contributions to modern lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and Radical Faerie culture, a proclamation from the city was read by Supervisor Mark Leno, and an advance showing of a documentary work on Hay's life was presented.

Nevertheless, the much-loved Hay, who in 1950 was a founder of the Mattachine Society, the first organization of gay rights activists

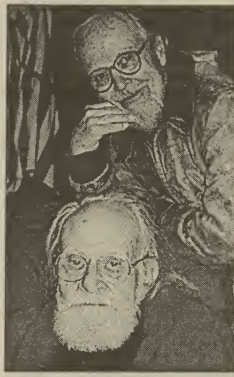
and protesters in the country, and co-founder of another key part of the world's queer history – the colorful and free-spirited movement, the Radical Faeries – was sorely missed at the event.

On Monday, November 20, Hay was accompanied by Burnside and other close friends as he left the hospital and returned to the comfort of his San Francisco home. He is expected to need constant care from not only friends and other loved ones, but from professional home health care workers.

A special fund has been established to supplant the meager 15 hours of compensation provided by the state MediCal program.

"Harry will need increased home care services beyond what MediCal will pay for, as he will be mostly bedridden while he continues to recover at home," said longtime friend Jerry Berbiar, who is helping to ensure Hay's anticipated full recovery. "The home health care we receive from MediCal has been adequate when Harry is doing well and is ambulatory, but this will need to be increased while Harry is bedridden for awhile."

Berbiar and other members of the Circle of Loving Companions,



John Burnside, top, and Harry Hay

close friends of Hay, are calling for donations of any amount to the Harry Hay Recovery Fund. The fund will help pay for medically necessary home care for Hay, Berbiar said, until Hay has recovered to the point where the home care we receive through MediCal will be sufficient to take care of him.

Donations may be sent to the Harry Hay Recovery Fund, in care of Jerry Berbiar, at 943 Stanyan, Apartment #1, San Francisco, CA 94117. For more information, write to Berbiar at the same address, or by e-mail at jerrfaer@mindspring.com. ▼

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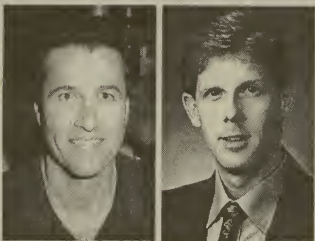
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177 Townsend owner says she won't be bought by developers

by Ed Walsh

The 177 Townsend nightclub, home to San Francisco's most popular gay dance venues, is digging in its heels to keep developers from giving it the boot before its lease expires in August 2002.

"They've tried to buy me out," said the club's event manager and part-owner, Audrey Joseph. "I've refused to be bought out and until my lease is up, I ain't leaving."

"And if he [a lawyer representing the developers] wants me out, he's going to have to pay me \$5 million to leave a day before the lease is up."

"I've spent a fortune on lawyers but no one is pushing me out," Joseph added.

The club has been in existence since 1988 and is home to several gay clubs including Club Universe, Pleasuredome, Futura, Club Asia, and Club Q. The cavernous club is made up of two rooms, the front and larger space is known as Club Townsend, the rear room with a separate entrance on King Street is called the King Street Garage. The rooms are merged during big events. The club has been host to a number of functions benefiting various gay community and AIDS organizations.



The 177 Townsend nightclub

Joseph was nominated as a pride parade grand marshal this year in recognition of the charitable work she's facilitated through the club.

The club's location — just a block from Pacific Bell Park — puts it smack in the middle of a rags-to-riches South Beach neighborhood once better known for its cheap rents and abandoned buildings. Joseph said she found it amusing that her club is one of the area's last holdouts.

"They are going to have all these tall buildings and my tiny little club," she said. "I'm going to look like the house of a little old lady who won't move."

David Levy, an attorney for the consortium of developers who bought the 177 Townsend Building last February, told the Bay

Area Reporter that they would like to demolish the club next summer but Levy added that would be contingent on the developers reaching an agreement with the club to give up its lease a year early. The proposed development would also have to clear various Planning Department hurdles and would have to win exemption from some zoning requirements before being approved.

According to the project's environmental impact report, plans for the site include a 10-story mixed-use building that would include retail, office, and live-work space as well as a parking garage. It would include 55 live-work units and 657 parking spaces. The project would also result in the demolition of office space adjacent to the club that is now occupied by the high-tech firm Xuma.com.

Although she has almost two years before she has to move the club, Joseph told the B.A.R. that she is actively looking for a new space.

"The Port of San Francisco has been helping us out," Joseph said. "There are some dead buildings along Illinois street that the port owns and some of them are gorgeous. But they need to be retrofitted and that would cost a lot of money." ▼

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Gay man is elector for third time

by Cynthia Laird

The openly gay former mayor of Santa Cruz will be part of history next month when he travels to Sacramento to actually vote for the president of the United States as a Democratic elector to the Electoral College.

John Laird (no relation to this writer) told the *Bay Area Reporter* that he's looking forward to the trip, and noted that this is the third time in row that he's been chosen as an elector. In California, on the Democratic side, the state's 54 electors are chosen by members of the congressional delegation. Laird was chosen by his congressman, Democratic Representative Sam Farr, who also appointed him in 1996. In 1992, Laird's first time as an elector, he was chosen by former Congressman Leon Panetta. "I'm going to be one of the 538 people who's actually electing the president," Laird said.

Laird, who served as mayor of Santa Cruz in 1983-84 and again in 1987-88, was just re-elected November 7 to a seat on the community college board, to which he was first elected in 1994. This year he was unopposed, which pleased him.

"I used to have these knock-down opponents," he said.

He added that back in 1992, there was one other openly gay elector from California; he doesn't know of any this year.

On December 18, electors will gather in each state capital to cast their votes. California, Laird said, is one of 25 states that legally bind the electors to vote for the presi-

dential candidate that won that state's electoral votes. California went to Vice President Al Gore. That still hasn't stopped the media from contacting Laird to see how he will vote.

"In the last few days, I've gotten calls from the Associated Press

and CNN. They're calling to see if anyone will potentially be a 'faithless elector'..."

"In the last few days, I've gotten calls from the Associated Press and CNN. They're calling to see if anyone will potentially be a 'faithless elector'..."

and CNN. They're calling to see if anyone will potentially be a 'faithless elector' [someone who votes against how their state voted]. All I do is start laughing," he said.

The uncertainty of this year's presidential election because of vot-

ing disputes in Florida has been a hot topic of conversation. Laird just returned from a meeting of gay elected officials in Phoenix, where openly gay Representatives Barney Frank (D-Massachusetts) and Tammy Baldwin (D-Wisconsin) said the outcome of the presidential

Neither Gore nor Bush currently has the necessary 270 electoral votes to win the presidency; the outcome of the race hinges on Florida's 25 electoral votes. Should Bush win in Florida and if Gore wins in New Mexico and Oregon (where he is currently ahead), Laird noted that Bush would have just over the 270 electoral votes needed. Thus, the possibility of just a couple of "faithless electors" could change the outcome of the race. There may be those who feel Gore should be president because he won the popular vote, Laird noted.

The process of casting electoral votes itself is very quick and largely ceremonial, Laird added.

Laird said he's been paying attention to the various court battles and recount issues swirling in Florida.

"I'm kind of intrigued by it," he told the *B.A.R.* "I sort of think more people went to the polls [intending] to vote for Al Gore." ▼

AGUILAS hosts awards celebration Tues.

by Cynthia Laird

The gay Latino group AGUILAS San Francisco will host its seventh annual awards celebration this Tuesday, November 28 in the North Light Court at City Hall. At the event, several Latino/a leaders will be recognized for their work in the community.

This year's theme is "Uniting and Building Through Communi-

ty - Celebrating Our Accomplishments." Last year's recipient of the group's Community Service Award was San Francisco Treasurer Susan Leal. Organizers expect about 200 people at this year's event.

The group started in November 1991, when a group of gay Latinos organized to address the various needs of the gay Latino community. They established the name AGUILAS, an acronym for Asociacion Gay Unida Impactando Latino/as, A Superarse, which

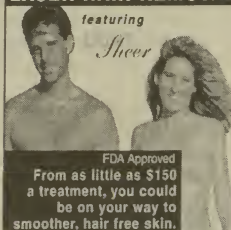
translated as Gay Association United in the Self-Empowerment of Gay Latino/as.

Today, AGUILAS is the Bay Area's oldest and largest community-based organization serving the needs of the Latino/a community. Programs are directed toward community empowerment as well as serving the needs of this community in the areas of HIV/AIDS awareness, education, and outreach.

There is currently a "state of

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- District 6: Chris Daly
- District 8: Eileen Hansen
- District 10: Sophie Maxwell
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A bunch of turkeys

Thanksgiving, a day that is generally devoted to family and friends spending time together and sharing a good meal, takes on new significance this year as the presidential election remains undecided. It all could be over soon, depending on the decision reached by the justices of the Florida Supreme Court. The charges and countercharges by Democrat and Republican surrogates of Al Gore and George W. Bush continue to muddle the political landscape, leading us to believe that both camps have their share of turkeys – and no, we don't mean the traditional bird that becomes dinner for many Americans on Thursday.

During oral arguments Monday, the high court justices in Tallahassee managed to skewer attorneys for both sides. The Republicans were trying to argue that hand recounts are unreliable, even as their man Bush signed a bill in Texas that calls for hand recounts in elections if needed, and despite the fact the Florida law specifically allows for them. The Democrats were trying to argue that the votes from those hand recounts should be part of the secretary of state's official certification of the vote, and that official, Katherine Harris – a Republican loyalist and co-chair of the Bush campaign in Florida – has shown her true colors time and time again since the election. As one talking head put it last week, when has she ever made a decision that has not benefited her man, George W. Bush? He hasn't. There was no "discretion," as she put it last week, when she announced that the hand recounts would not be certified, which was what led to this week's court showdown.

Meanwhile, it appears that time may be running out for Gore. Initial reports out of the heavily Democratic counties conducting the manual recounts are that he is not getting the number of votes he needs to diminish Bush's lead, which now stands at 930 votes with the counting of the overseas ballots.

Most Americans are satisfied to wait for the recounts, but it is becoming increasingly clear that some sort of conclusion is needed soon.

Closer to home, we have much to be thankful for: gay candidates and gay-friendly

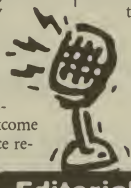
candidates were elected to various seats in the California Legislature. This, combined with Governor Gray Davis's pledge to sign legislation that furthers the equality of LGBT Californians next year, is welcome news indeed, especially in light of the fact that Republicans will likely control both houses of Congress when the 107th session convenes in January. (The outcome of the Washington state Senate race remains too close to call; if Democrat Maria Cantwell wins, the Senate would be 50-50 if Bush wins the presidency and Senator Joseph Lieberman retains his seat.)

In San Francisco, we have numerous runoff races for the Board of Supervisors that are in full swing, including District 8, where Supervisor Mark Leno missed winning outright by a mere five votes. Talk about a close election! We encourage voters

to apply for absentee ballots so that they won't forget to vote December 12; the deadline is December 5. Voter turnout is traditionally lower in runoff races and this year voters have important decisions to make in nearly every district regarding board representation and the future direction of the city.

Finally, we would be remiss if we did not mention the need for people to donate items or their time for Thanksgiving dinners that several organizations are hosting for the needy and those who may have nowhere else to go. See the story on page one for information about how you can help Tenderloin Tessie's, Metropolitan Community Church-San Francisco, Most Holy Redeemer Church, and Glide Memorial Church so that thousands of people can enjoy a hearty dinner and fellowship.

Have a happy Thanksgiving. ▼



Editorial



Electoral College explained

by Kevin W.W. Johnson

The November 7 election has made the Electoral College the subject of much public debate. This presents a propitious time to look at our form(s) of government and the nature of national elections.

To put it bluntly, America – from a national level – is not a democracy. America is a federal republic. Simply recite the Pledge of Allegiance as a reminder.

Our republic is a constituency of states; not a constituency of individuals. This federal concept is often and loosely referred to as states' rights. Two of the primary federal states' rights are embodied 1) in the U.S. Senate where each state, regardless of population (compare tiny Rhode Island with the fifth largest economy in the world, California), is equally represented by two senators and 2) by each state's right to elect appointed electors who then vote for president of the United States (usually the same candidate as chosen by a majority of their state). As a consequence, the concept "one man, one vote" does not hold true for the 100 members of the Senate or the presidency.

As for the other branch of Congress – the House of Representatives – and the Supreme Court, we find a mix of democracy and monarchy. The 435 elected House members (and three District of Columbia non-voting delegates) are the only democratically elected members of our federal government. Only here does the "one man, one vote" concept hold true. As for the Supreme Court and its nine lifetime appointed members, this is a modified holdover of the United Kingdom's 18th century monarchy; designed – as was the early House of Lords – to protect its members from undue executive, legislative, or political influence. So why this mix of styles in our government?

The framers of our Constitution considered factors unique to the history and nature of this new land. The most prevalent concern was that expressed by the smaller states of New England... that they would be subsumed by the political will of the larger populations of New York, Pennsylvania, and Virginia.

They were concerned also about the additional representation granted the states of the South in the granting of a 3/5-ratio counting of slaves for the purpose of representation in the House and Electoral College. And, finally, as certain colonial states were established as religious havens for beliefs persecuted in other countries and states during their recent history, there existed a fear of religious influence, and thereby intolerance, by the greater body politic.

Shall the Electoral College be constitutional-ly changed?

The answer to this question is, in one word, no.

The Constitution provides, via Article V, a means by which to amend it. Bottom line, it requires two-thirds of Congress or the state legislatures to submit any change to and for approval by three-fourths of the states; or a constitutional convention as petitioned by two-thirds (34) of the 50 state legislatures.

The latter, a constitutional convention, won't ever be called as many fear the fact that a convention cannot be restricted to a single topic.

And why would any state wish to oppose eliminating the Electoral College?

The answer is numbers.

According to the presidential vote count, the combined popular vote of the 13 states and one district having only three or four electoral votes each (totaling 48 electoral votes) is 5,517,000. The popular vote of these

14 less populated states/district is less than just one particular large state – Florida – with 5,926,000 votes and 25 electoral votes.

In fact, the 10 largest states (California, Florida, Illinois, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Texas) had a larger voter total (52,364,000) than all the other 40 states and District of Columbia combined (48,836,000).

Without the Electoral College, why would presidential candidates bother with the "first in the nation" caucus and primary in Iowa (posting 1,030,000 votes) and New Hampshire (764,000)? And why should any candidate bother to physically visit Vermont (290,000 votes), or any other relatively voter-poor state when they can simply raise money in large, wealthy states (California and New York) and saturate local media in all the smaller states?

Additionally, with the completion of the 2000 census, next year's reapportionment will be granting additional seats in the House (and, consequently, electoral votes) to such growing states as California, Florida, and Texas while removing the same from such states as (possibly) Arkansas, Hawaii, Idaho, Mississippi, Rhode Island, and others. With this additional pressure of lessened federal representation in the House, the voters and legislatures of the smaller states will not be at all inclined to grant even more power to the mega-states by ceding their presidential prerogative.

So, shall the Electoral College be constitutionally changed?

In a nut shell – fat chance. ▼

Kevin Johnson is a member of Concord's Human Relations Commission.



Guest Opinion

LETTERS

Pennies from heaven

Have you seen those plastic "Every Penny Counts" jars in many businesses around town? Well, it's Thanksgiving and time to fill them up! Please help us to help our brothers and sisters living with HIV. Next Friday, December 1, is World AIDS Day and the AIDS Emergency Fund will be back in Union Square collecting, sorting, and bagging your coins (we like dollars, too). This year alone, we have students from 66 schools participating and we would like you to join us.

Where does the money go? For the past 18 years, AEF has been providing direct financial assistance to people with disabling HIV. Our grants are often life saving. This year's \$600 grant is primarily being used to cover rental payments but may be utilized to pay for medical and utility expenses as well. Getting someone into stable housing and connecting them with other agencies that can provide additional vital services is AEF's job and our ongoing mission.

In 1999, your pennies helped us raise over \$130,000. During this June's Pride Parade alone, your pennies really did come from heaven as you threw almost \$9,000 worth into our rainbow flag while we walked down Market Street. Since our pennies program started in 1987, over \$1.5 million has been collected - and that's a lot of pennies.

San Francisco truly is a city that cares. This year AEF will assist over 2,500 clients because of this community's support and generosity. In addition, you, the community, have helped us raise new awareness and new funding sources so that we may provide direct financial assistance to people living with breast cancer as well. Look for positive news about our Breast Cancer Emergency Fund soon.

Do you have some time to volunteer this holiday season? We need your help to pick up penny jars, assist with client intakes in the office, and work on special events. Call Clark Sealy, our volunteer manager, at (415) 558-6895. Also, call Clark if you have a large collection of coins for us and we will get them picked up.

Your help over the past 18 years has meant \$16 million raised and distributed. We continue to use 90 percent of those funds directly on client services. We thank you for your continued support and generosity. If you know of any Bay Area schoolchildren joining this year's EPC day, help them fill their jars. Otherwise, take your coins to the nearest AEF penny jar in your neighborhood or bring them to our office at 1540 Market Street, Suite 320, at Van Ness Avenue.

Please join us and our EPC day sponsors: Wells Fargo Bank, the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, Provident Financial, Loomis/Fargo and Co., SuperShuttle, WILD 94.9-FM, Steven Sams, Golden Brands, and the Castro Lions on Friday, December 1. I hope to see many of you and our wonderful students and volunteers in Union Square from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. We will have entertainment and surprises while we count your pennies from heaven. Remember, "every penny counts" - especially yours! See you in Union Square on World AIDS Day.

Peter Fiske, President
AIDS Emergency Fund

Bring back Bill and John

Okay, that's it! I've had it. All this meanness and manipulation of the vote count by Al Gore (who I voted for, albeit reluctantly) and Bush junior makes me fondly yearn for Bill Bradley and John McCain. Now, these were two candidates fit to lead this country.

Frederick Hobson
San Francisco

Defending parade official

I would like to say a few words on behalf of Calvin Gipson, who seems to be verbally attacked a lot recently in your letters to the editor.

He is doing an incredible job that has earned him thanks and gratitude from countless homeless and hungry people who receive three hot meals a day at Glide Memorial Church, and I have seen first hand, the affection he receives from his staff.

Why do politics have to come into everything that we do these days? These criticisms seem totally unwarranted. Our community faces so many future dangers, it is more important now than ever to have unity within our ranks and show the spirit of brotherhood, strength, and love for each other to help us lead a happier and better life, and freedom to do so in the way that we wish.

Daddy Alan Selby
San Francisco

Greetings from New Jersey

I picked up a recent Bay Area Reporter at Barnes & Noble in New York City. I read a letter from a gay man who wrote of homophobic drug dealers in the Haight and how gay groups like the Radical Faeries have gone out of their way to thwart efforts to clean the Haight up. He said, "No, I'm not making this up." He doesn't have to try to convince me.

I lived in San Francisco through the 1980s, until 1991. When I first arrived, the neighborhood was a beautiful, safe haven for gays, and for people with AIDS.

When I left, most of that beauty was gone and violence was on the rise. I've returned many times since, and the neighborhood now looks like someone emptied a garbage truck onto it.

I remember clearly, in the 1980s, "gay rights groups" like the Radical Faeries, ACT UP, Queer Nation, and Electric City would openly encourage people to hide behind their sexuality, their skin color, and even their HIV status as an excuse/justification for drug dealing, drug and alcohol abuse, aggressive panhandling, public masturbation, and even violence. Anyone who didn't support this type of behavior was said to be "homophobic." (Do they even know what that word really means?)

More than anything, Castro residents seemed to yearn for a community that had no standards of behavior, where acting like an animal and trashing one's own community was considered acceptable.

I'm reminded of the old adage: Be careful what you wish for. You may get it.

Paul Sanchez
Hoboken, New Jersey

Greetings from Ohio

After being back in Cincinnati for five months, I am finding it to be a very sexually uptight, cliquish, hillbilly, hooterville place. This seems to especially be the case with the supposed gay bars and scene.

This is probably why the right-wing Republican powers that be here really don't see the gay bars and scene as any threat whatsoever to them. They continue not to criticize, harass, or attempt to close the downtown area gay bars and businesses.

They probably would not like to see activities in this direction become a major national issue or embarrassment for them. Also, this could severely hurt the great regional economy and job market. It seems to be in their best economic interests to keep Cincinnati looking progressive and modern with a few token gay bars and businesses.

This depressing and frustrating sexually uptight situation is totally the opposite of what I experienced while living here for seven months last year. I will concede that I did not frequent the gay bars and scene here last year. My past experience in this area is the major reason why I decided to move back to Cincinnati.

I have finally decided to move to the Fort Lauderdale-Miami-South Beach area in a few weeks. I understand that these cities are still considered to be very sexually liberal gay meccas. This is also the case with Key West and Daytona Beach in Florida.

When I do leave, I will never return to Cincinnati or anywhere else in Ohio to live or even visit. Living here a second time has finally woke me up to a very hard lesson about moving back to miserable depressing cities that I have already had enough good sense to move from. It always seems to be much worse for me than before when I make some silly illogical decision to move back to a city. This 15-year-old repetitive situation will not happen to me again.

David Raffield
Cincinnati, Ohio

DP registry egg

Current political officeholders who preen themselves and cluck over the new California statewide domestic partnership registry egg which they have laid are glorifying domestic partnership only because they happen to be the present occupants of the legislative nest and lack the guts to fight for anything better. Unfortunately, they have hatched a very inferior bird. And gay people who feel excited or reassured listening to all of this postpartum cackling and self-congratulation are simply being duped.

Domestic partnership is hollow, patronizing, clumsily constructed second-class citizenship all the way, grossly inadequate for the broad spectrum of any couple's real social, legal, financial, and personal needs. It has no real substance. Even its one actual meager and greatly vaunted "benefit" - hospital visitation rights - is available already, and can be accomplished now in half an hour by any two friends, of whatever gender or sexual orientation, who simply sign a durable power of attorney for health care.

Blacks took more than half a century to reverse and correct their legal error of accepting "separate but equal" schools, universities, clubs, churches, and public facilities. Gays must not make the same mistake by accepting an artificial, contrived device which offers them tacit recognition and acknowledgment while in reality assuring that they be held forever somehow slightly apart, definitively barred from inclusion in the one truly respected, bona fide category - marriage.

The new civil unions offered in Vermont, which provide many more benefits than domestic partnerships do, nevertheless are unequal on their face. They are not a boon to living, but an insult to intelligence and an impediment to freedom of movement. Are "united" gay couples expected to simply stay and play house in Vermont for the rest of their lives?

In a society of justice and equality any persons who wish to marry must simply be allowed to do so.

Glenn Davis Rice
Davis, California

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Who was Alla Nazimova?

by Rawley Grau

November 12, 1906 (94 years ago this month): Alla Nazimova makes her debut on Broadway, starring in *Hedda Gabler*.

Remembered today primarily for her campy silent film *Salome*, Alla Nazimova was both a highly acclaimed Broadway actress and the most successful femme fatale of Hollywood's early years. Rumors of her bisexuality only added to her on-screen mystique.

Born Mariam Adelaida Leventon ("Alla" for short) in the Black Sea resort of Yalta on June 4, 1879, she had a childhood filled with misery: Her quick-tempered father, a prosperous Jewish pharmacist, tyrannized his children with beatings and humiliation. When he forbade his daughter, a violin student, to use the family name at public recitals lest she embarrass him, Alla adopted the surname "Nazimova" from a fictional heroine. But her true love was not music but theater, and when her father became incapacitated after multiple strokes, she went to Moscow to study acting.

There she became a student of Konstantin Stanislavsky, whose psychology-based approach to acting would later revolutionize theater. When she was 22, Nazimova fell in love with the actor-director Pavel Orlevnev; together they created a touring company that ended up four years later in New York.

In America, their productions received raves, and Nazimova was proclaimed "a new tragedy queen." A Broadway producer offered her a five-year contract, and she readily accepted.

She chose *Hedda Gabler* for her Broadway debut on November 12, 1906, and two months later added a second play by Henrik Ibsen, *A Doll's House*, on alternate nights. As an interpreter of Ibsen's dynamic, independent women Nazimova had no equal. The future playwright Eugene O'Neill saw Nazimova play *Hedda* and later wrote that her performance "gave me my first conception of a modern theater where truth might live."

But in 1917, Hollywood called. Metro Pictures offered her a deal she couldn't refuse: a five-year contract with an astonishing \$13,000-a-week salary and creative control. Nazimova was now the highest-paid actress in motion pictures.

Most of her 11 Metro films

were torrid melodramas in which she played exotic vamps. Short in stature, turning 40, and not especially beautiful, Nazimova nonetheless had tremendous sexual allure off screen as well, with her dark hair, strong features, and intense violet-blue eyes. Although she had several affairs with men (usually half her age), her interest in young women was one of Tinseltown's open secrets. Meanwhile, she falsely claimed to be married to her leading man, Charles Bryant.

Nazimova's female lovers included the perennially star-struck Mercedes de Acosta (who went on to woo Greta Garbo and Marlene Dietrich), script girl (and later director) Dorothy Arzner, and several starlets. Curiously, two of Nazimova's "protégés," actress Jean Acker and designer Natacha Rambova, both married Rudolph Valentino, who was himself rumored to be bisexual.

Citing the star's "whims and vagaries," Metro refused to renew Nazimova's contract, although nearly all her films had been moneymakers. Undeterred, she poured most of her life's savings into two labors of love, both collaborations with Rambova: *A Doll's House* (1921) and Wilde's *Salome* (1923). The movies were commercial flops, and while critics generally praised the Ibsen film, they didn't know what to make of the Wilde adaptation.

Ostentatiously decadent, *Salome* still fascinates as an avant garde example of gay camp, with Rambova's over-the-top sets and costumes, ladies-in-waiting played by men in drag, and a Syrian guard with painted nipples. No wonder a rumor circulated that, in homage to Wilde, Nazimova had cast only homosexuals in the film. As for the star herself, the 42-year-old actress is at times surprisingly convincing as a petulant 14-year-old nymphet.

Disillusioned and broke after *Salome*'s failure, Nazimova returned to the stage. While on tour, she met an old friend who asked her to be godmother to her daughter, Nancy. The little girl, who became an actress herself, would eventually enjoy a much different celebrity as the wife of Ronald Reagan.

Nazimova had hopes of converting her Hollywood villa, "The Garden of Alla," into a lucrative hotel. But sadly, she entrusted the project to art con men who left her stranded on the brink of ruin. (It ultimately did become a hotel, re-

named "The Garden of Allah.") Help came from a former lover, Eva Le Gallienne, who invited Nazimova to join her Civic Repertory Theatre in New York for the 1928 season. Nazimova easily found echoes of her own experience in the role of the bankrupt Madame Ranevskaya in Anton Chekhov's *The Cherry Orchard* and gave a triumphant performance at the Civic that completely restored her reputation as one of the great actresses of the American stage.

While at the Civic, Nazimova, who had a history of flings with adoring young actresses, got involved with an apprentice 30 years her junior. But this was no fling, and Glesca Marshall remained Nazimova's lover, manager, and devoted companion for the next 16 years.

Nazimova continued to deliver electrifying performances, most notably in O'Neill's epic *Mourning Becomes Electra* and Ibsen's *Ghosts*, which she also directed. But in 1937, she was diagnosed with breast cancer and underwent a mastectomy. While recovering, Nazimova was once again tempted by the movies. She spent the last years of her life in Los Angeles, taking secondary "mother" roles in a handful of films—a quiet denouement for a woman who had dominated both Broadway and Hollywood.

Just weeks after her 66th birthday, Nazimova suffered a heart attack and was rushed to the hospital. She died on July 13, 1945, with Marshall by her side. ▼

Rawley Grau has won four Vice Versa Awards for his writing on gay and lesbian culture. He can be reached at GayNestor@aol.com.

Suggested reading

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AGUILAS

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emergency" with regard to HIV/AIDS in minority communities. Based on a review of U.S. AIDS cases over the past decade, a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention study found that men of color represent an increasing proportion of AIDS cases among gay and bisexual men rising from 31 percent in 1989 to 52 percent in 1999.

In November 1999, AGUILAS became one of a select group of community-based organizations awarded grants from the CDC. AGUILAS board members and staff at El Ambiente worked on the grant proposal, which was one of less than 20 awarded throughout the country.

The four-year grant—with

first-year funding of \$233,792, includes six long-term goals:

- To reduce HIV transmission by reducing prevalence of high-risk behaviors among Latino gay and bisexual men in the Bay Area.
- To increase the access and availability of HIV prevention services to Latino gay/bisexual men in the Bay Area.
- To design, develop, and maintain a cadre of Latino gay and bisexual men who volunteer their efforts for the HIV program services offered.
- To increase the sense of connection to a community of Latino gay and bisexual men in the Bay Area as a mechanism to provide continued social support.
- To secure alternative sources of funding to maintain the interventions developed and further

address HIV prevention needs as they arise.

- To disseminate the information obtained through the development and implementation of interventions through presentations at conferences and publications in the print media targeted to professionals and general audiences.

In March, El Ambiente received 99 out of a possible 100 points on a site visit from the CDC, and annually exceeds goals placed by the city. The El Ambiente program has served over 800 participants. ▼

For more information about Tuesday's celebration, call (415) 558-8403. The event takes place from 6-10 p.m. and tickets are \$25 per person.

POLITICS

Four excellent supervisor candidates

by Wayne Friday

With Supervisor **Tom Ammiano** easily winning re-election outright on November 7 in District 9, there is a chance that the next San Francisco Board of Supervisors could have five members from gay and lesbian community. From where I sit, there are four very good candidates from the gay community who deserve to be elected in the December 12 runoff election. Meet these extraordinarily qualified candidates.

In District 3, **Lawrence Wong**, a native San Franciscan, is employed as the national executive director of the Chinese-American Citizens Alliance, a 105-year-old civil rights organization that is the equivalent of the NAACP in this country's Chinese American community. Wong is the first openly gay director of that respected organization. When Wong won election to the San Francisco Community College Board (he's now serving his second term) in 1994 he became the first-ever openly gay Asian American elected to public office in the nation. Wong is endorsed by the Alice B. Toklas Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club, the Asia Pacific Demo Club, Senator **Dianne Feinstein**, Representative **Nancy Pelosi**, Supervisor **Leslie Katz**, Sheriff **Michael Hennessey**, Health Commissioner **Roma Guy**, and many prominent gay activists like **Tim Welford** and **Tom Nolan**. Voters of District 3 would serve themselves well by electing Wong to the board.

In District 5, **Juanita Owens** would serve this area well on the Board of Supervisors. Owens, an educator, is currently serving on the San Francisco Board of Education. She has a long history of gay civil rights activism, and is an elected member of the city's Democratic County Central Committee. She is running against a member of the Green Party who only this year moved into the district so he could run for the 5th District seat. Owens has the endorsement of the Toklas Demo Club, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, the SF chapter of the National Women's Political Caucus, the SF Police Officers Association, Senator **Feinstein**, Assemblywoman **Carole Migden** and Supervisors **Katz** and **Gavin Newsom**. District 5 voters would do well by sending Owens, a respected, longtime lesbian civil rights activist, to the board.

In District 8, Supervisor **Mark Leno** clearly deserves re-election from this district. Leno, who narrowly missed winning re-election outright on November 7 — he polled 49.99 percent of the vote among six candidates — was elected in a citywide vote in November 1998 after having been appointed to his seat earlier that year. I live and vote in District 8 and have watched Leno's performance since he first became a supervisor. When the *San Francisco Examiner* recently called him "the most effective member of the Board of Supervisors," they had it right. No one in City Hall works harder,

pays more attention to constituent matters, and puts in more time on the job and is more widely respected than Leno. A small business owner in the city, Leno has the endorsement of the League of Conservation Voters, the Sierra Club, SF Tomorrow, the Bicycle Coalition and also is "recommended" by the San Francisco chapter of the NWPC (the group does not endorse male candidates), both the *Chronicle* and *Examiner*, and the SFPOA. Leno also is endorsed by Senator **Barbara Boxer**, Pelosi, Migden, BART board member **Tom Radulovich**, Katz, and former Planning Commissioner **Dennis Antenore**. Voters would do well by re-electing him on December 12.

In District 6, **Chris Dittenhafer** is the candidate best suited to serve the district on the next Board of Supervisors. Dittenhafer, an openly gay man, is president of the District Council of Merchants and is a Wells Fargo branch manager. A respected gay and civil rights activist, Dittenhafer is endorsed by the Toklas Demo Club, the SFPOA, Pelosi, Migden, Katz, and numerous prominent gay and lesbian activists. District 6 residents would do well by electing Dittenhafer on December 12.

Nine of the city's 11 supervisorial districts will hold runoff elections on December 12; four of those districts offer superb candidates from the gay and lesbian community in the persons of Lawrence Wong (District 3), Juanita Owens (District 5), Chris Dittenhafer (District 6), and Supervisor Mark Leno (District 8). Voters in these particular districts would assure an effective, hard-working board by electing these candidates on December 12 to join Ammiano on the new board that will take office in January.

Politics and people

California Republicans, in shambles after losing the state to **Al Gore** by 12 percentage points (despite having spent \$14 million in an eight-week television blitz as well as additional millions through the GOP's Victory 2000 Committee), losing four House of Representatives seats, four Assembly seats, and one state Senate seat, are already pointing fingers at each other for the November 7 debacle.

How badly did the Republicans in California do on Election Day? Gore whipped **George W. Bush** in the state by nearly 1,300,000 votes, despite the GOP's heavy spending here and Gore's decision to spend little time or money in the state.

Meanwhile, state Republicans are desperately searching for what even they quietly refer to as a "sacrificial lamb" to oppose Governor **Gray Davis** in 2002; Secretary of State **Bill Jones**, the Republican's only current statewide constitutional officer, is the early favorite, though those close to him are saying that even Jones, having seen the November 7 election results in the state, is having second thoughts. California Republicans reportedly are also looking for a candidate, hopefully with "star" name quality, to oppose U.S. Sen-

ator **Barbara Boxer** in 2004. Palm Springs Congresswoman **Mary Bono** (R), the widow of entertainer-turned-Congressman **Sonny Bono**, will likely be pushed by national Republican Party leaders to make the race, but Bono, too, knows that Boxer has shown in previous races that she is one tough candidate (**Matt Fong** can attest to that).

Big election winners: Among the dozens of supervisor candidates on the ballot across the city November 7, Supervisor **Gavin Newsom**, running unopposed in District 2, received the most votes with a grand total of 26,851; however, among the other contested races, District 8 Supervisor **Mark Leno** led all of them with 16,908 votes, even besting the popular Tom Ammiano, who had fewer opponents.

Big time loser: The sorriest performance was by openly gay candidate **Gilbert Criswell**, who



Gilbert Criswell

pulled in an embarrassing 50 votes among the 18,464 cast in District 6.

And though we don't seem to have a president yet as we go to press, despite the most dramatic political story of our time, I still think that **George W. Bush**, with all the political operatives he has in his kid brother's banana republic of Florida, will be taking the oath on January 20. Forget about Dubya constantly saying during the campaign that "He [Gore] trusts the government — I trust the people." G.W. apparently doesn't "trust" those quarter million more Americans who voted for Gore than for him, but the oft-repeated line must have sounded good to him at the time. Since the "steal" word has now been used widely by the Republicans, let me be among those who will tell you that in the end, **Jeb Bush** and his operatives will indeed steal this thing for brother Dubya in Florida.

I would further point out that although Republicans traditionally have defended states' rights, it was the Bush campaign that quickly filed a lawsuit in federal court to block several Florida county officials from carrying out a hand recount of votes, claiming it gave them too much discretion. And how hypocritical is this — as governor of Texas, Bush signed a bill in 1997 that made manual recounts in contested elections "preferable" over machine recounts. However, last week, Bush openly criticized the same type of hand recounting of ballots in Florida, calling it "arbitrary and chaotic."

A memo to the inaugural committee: If and when Bush is sworn in as president, make sure that

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Changing the world, a few lesbians at a time

by Paula Martinac

The term "activist" has a lot of negative connotations, suggesting militancy and self-sacrifice. Indeed, many of the self-identified activists I have known over the past 15 years are people who have put in dozens of hours a week for their cause or have been arrested in big-city demonstrations and "zaps." It's a mode of being that only a minority can relate to or even afford. Getting arrested at a midday demo just isn't all that practical when you've got a time clock to punch.

But why define "activism" so narrowly? I'd like to suggest that activists are simply people who take some sort of active part in effecting social change, however slowly or incrementally. They don't have to live in a major metropolis or gay mecca to be involved in the struggle for lesbian and gay rights, and they also don't have to spend every free hour as a volunteer. And they most certainly do not have to get arrested to show commitment to the gay community. Our perspective on activism might change if we saw small, daily acts as valuable contributions to the lesbian and gay movement.

Here's an example of activism that I love. You've seen those highway signs that read "Adopt-a-Highway." In this program, civic groups adopt a mile of highway, agreeing to clean their stretch twice yearly in exchange for having the group's name displayed prominently on a highway marker. A while back, some smart lesbians in Albuquerque named their group "Lesbians for Change" and

signed on for a mile in their area. Imagine the faces of the Christian fundamentalists who pass their sign! I'd like to see this happen all over the country, using state-sponsored clean-up programs to increase lesbian visibility.

If highway maintenance isn't for you, try something on this list of "Four Activist Things That Any One or Two Lesbians Can Do

Anywhere in the U.S." Even if you've never considered yourself an activist, there are ways to be active. And getting your friends to take part is a contribution, too.

1. It seems like someone is always suggesting you write a letter to Congress about some pending legislation, like the Employment Non-Discrimination

Act. But you're not sure who your congressperson is, you just used your last stamp, and besides, what would you say? The Human Rights Campaign has made it easy.

If you have Internet access, you can visit HRC's online Take Action! Center at www.hrc.org. They'll not only tell you who your congressional representatives are, they'll compose the e-mail messages for you. All you have to do is fill in your name and address and click "Send now." While you're at it, forward the Take Action! Center's URL to your online mailing list. This is a great way to increase the volume of positive mail sent to Congress on lesbian and gay issues.

2. You may have gotten requests for donations from lesbian and gay organizations, with the minimum suggested contribution of \$35 or \$40. For some, that's not a lot of money, but let's say you can only afford \$10. Why not ask four of your friends to pitch in \$10 each to, say, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force or your local lesbian health clinic, and

send all your checks in together? You can give yourselves a group name, like Four Babes from Baltimore. Even if you don't have any volunteer time, you're raising money for the people who do.

3. Your town doesn't have a gay pride march, but there's one in the city that's a two-hour drive from you. Organize a carload of your friends to attend the march together. Each person in the entourage agrees to tell one straight person where the group is going. Not only can this be a coming-out action, but it can also foster dialogue with heterosexuals about why "gay pride" is important. (And you'll have a good time at the march, too.)

4. Lesbian-themed books still have a hard time making their way into print. Mainstream publishers handle them like hot potatoes, and lesbian presses suffer from lack of capital. Yet lesbians want to read stories about their lives, and women and girls who are just coming out are particularly in need of positive lesbian images in books.

You and your friends could each buy a book from a lesbian publishing company (Spinsters, Bella Books, or Cleis Press for example), then donate the books as a group to your local public library. In that way, you help preserve lesbian voices and culture while at the same time supporting women's presses.

If these ideas don't appeal to you, try coming up with one of your own. Social change happens one or two people at a time. Lesbians often feel powerless, but by redefining and reclaiming "activism," we can take some control back over our lives. ▼

Paula Martinac is the author of seven books. She can be reached care of this publication or at LnColumn@aol.com. For more Lesbian Notions, visit www.planetout.com.

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Proposition L supporters vow to fight

by Katie Szymanski

Proposition L – the ballot measure designed to curb office growth and enormous rents in key districts of San Francisco – lost at the polls by about 1,100 votes, the Department of Elections announced last week.

But in the spirit of this year's return of the people's voice, San Franciscans say that the ballot measure succeeded overwhelmingly in the face of a big-money opposition campaign that co-opted pro-neighborhood rhetoric and tried to confuse progressive voters.

And the battle isn't over, they say, pointing the Board of Supervisors' sudden new willingness to look at legislation that helps control rent by putting offices where they belong.

"We had always said that L should have been done legislatively, but the board wouldn't do it," said Debra Walker, co-chair of the Yes on L campaign. "Now – for the next 30 days at least, while candidates campaign for their runoff – they're realizing that a majority of citizens want change. So we might see some things get done."

Walker was speaking about the move to pass elements of Proposition L through the board, such as negotiating the amount and placement of commercial developments, a strategy that seems likely to succeed in the face of anti-mayoral sentiment expressed citywide.

Options abound for growth control, say Proposition L supporters, who scoffed at Mayor Willie Brown's new eagerness to "compromise" and negotiate a new policy on development. Brown saw his rival measure, Proposition K, go down in flames at the ballot box, and the mayor has been anything but pro-growth control during his term. The unyielding amount of office construction has resulted in the displacement of long-term residents, as more jobs require more housing, of which there is already a shortage. And while Brown has offered to negotiate, Supervisor Tom Ammiano stated at the board meeting on November 20 that mediation should be done independently, not through City Hall.

Proposition L campaign members said they would be examining many avenues to ensure that

the spirit of Proposition L remains alive, including re-submitting a similar measure on next year's ballot; and suing the city over its preferential treatment of dot-coms by not classifying them as businesses that would be subject to commercial laws. One such lawsuit was filed this week to protest an "industrial" classified business at 16th Street and the base of Potrero Hill that is actually a dot-com; plaintiffs are hoping that a court will define once and for all what constitutes an "office"

that is subject to all the taxes and limitations of San Francisco's commercial market.

No matter the avenue, however, Proposition L supporters say that the people have spoken, the housing crisis is unavoidably blatant, and it is clear that something needs to change.

"Without protecting areas for other uses, there has been an enormous displacement of industries that the city needs," said Proposition L's Walker. "It has messed up the economy for everybody." ▼

Deadline near for Miss Transgender SF contest

by Cynthia Laird

Contestants wishing to vie for the title of Miss Transgender San Francisco have until next Friday, December 1, to submit their applications, the group TransGender San Francisco has announced.

Miss TGFSF functions as the goodwill ambassador to TGFSF's sister organizations and the general public. Her participation in functions of the Imperial Court, the Pride Parade, and other events serves to further the goals and aspirations of the transgender community while educating others about the transgender experience.

The current Miss TGFSF, Tiani DeVil, will crown the winner at the 17th annual TGFSF Cotillion to be held at the San Francisco Design Center Galleria on Saturday, February 3. Contestants compete in active wear, talent, formal wear, and question segments after having been previously interviewed by a panel of judges. The preliminary round tests each contestant's ability to articulate herself on gender issues, as well as her ability to represent the transgender community. Along with the final question, this interview segment counts for over half of the contestant's final score.

The annual cotillion is TGFSF's grand event of the year. In addition to an evening of elegance, food, and entertainment, the gala offers the opportunity to stand confident and strong with almost 400 members of the transgender community in celebration and

pride, organizers said. The "debutante parade," one of the highlights of the evening, gives those who are just coming out a chance to step up on stage and be welcomed.

Those interested in being a contestant should contact Aiyana Eveningstar, TGFSF vice president, at aiyana.star@earthlink.net for complete details, rules, and eligibility requirements. Judges have yet to be selected, but previously have included locals such as Dr. Carol Queen and Supervisor Mark Leno, who is spearheading the city's Transgender Civil Rights Implementation Task Force.

TGFSF is a nonsexual, membership-based organization serving the educational, social, and recreational needs of transgender individuals, their spouses, significant others, family members, friends, and professionals in the helping services. TGFSF was originally formed as ETVG, or Educational TV Channel, in 1982 and became a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization in 1994.

According to members, TGFSF provides safe settings for transgender people to meet, hold discussions, and attend educational seminars on issues of importance to their community. TGFSF also provides a speakers bureau, whose trained members make presentations to community groups on topics concerning the transgender community and the transgender experience.

For more information, visit the TGFSF Web site at www.tgfsf.org, or call the group's hotline at (415) 564-3246. ▼



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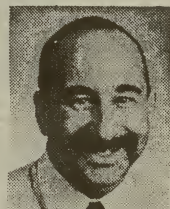
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CAPE sees glass half full after election

by Cynthia Laird

One of the state's nonprofit lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender lobbying groups, the California Alliance for Pride and Equality, has expressed its satisfaction with the results of numerous state elections.

"With this 2000 election, California leads the nation in electing lawmakers who support equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people," said Jean Harris, CAPE's executive director. "Our state has spoken loud and clear. From the presidency all the way down to local races, California voters have overwhelmingly chosen to elect fair-minded representatives."

Californians overwhelmingly supported Vice President Al Gore over Texas Governor George W. Bush by an unofficial margin of 54 percent to 42 percent. While the final outcome of the presidential race is still being determined, Harris noted that Gore has endorsed measures that support gay and lesbian equality and opposes

those that discriminate against LGBT Americans.

As expected, California's senior senator, Dianne Feinstein, easily beat Republican Congressman Tom Campbell, 56 percent to 36 percent.

California's congressional delegation is now split with 32 Democrats and 20 Republicans, with several Democratic gains. In Northern California, Assemblyman Mike Honda won the 15th Congressional District seat (which Campbell gave up to run for the Senate) over GOP Assemblyman Jim Conneen, 55 percent to 42 percent.

In Southern California, state Senator Adam Schiff defeated GOP incumbent Representative Jim Rogan, 53 percent to 45 percent. That race was one of the most costly in the country, and Rogan was targeted by Democrats for his leadership role as one of the House Managers during President Clinton's impeachment.

Jane Harman, who gave up her congressional seat two years ago to run unsuccessfully for governor, won it back by defeating Congressman Steve Kuykendall, 49



CAPE's Jean Harris

percent to 47 percent, according to unofficial returns.

In the 49th Congressional District, Assemblywoman Susan Davis beat GOP incumbent Congressman Brian Bilbray 50 percent to 46 percent.

"It is significant to note the incumbents and candidates who support equal rights for LGBT people have won their respective races convincingly," Harris added. "History has shown that an overwhelming majority of lawmakers

supportive of gay and lesbian equality are consistently elected."

There were some disappointments, although they were not unexpected. Republican Congresswoman Mary Bono easily won re-election, defeating her openly gay challenger, Democrat Ron Oden. And, it appears that openly lesbian candidate Gerrie Schipske narrowly lost in her bid to unseat her GOP opponent, Congressman Steve Horn. Unofficial returns show Horn leading, 49 percent to 48 percent and he has been declared the winner on CNN's Web site.

Harris also said that CAPE was "elated" with state legislative races, which saw four lesbians being elected to the state Senate and Assembly. Current Assemblywoman Sheila Kuehl won a seat to the state Senate with a whopping 71 percent of the vote, and will be the first openly gay or lesbian person to serve in that chamber.

In the Assembly, San Francisco's Carole Migden was re-elected with a huge 79 percent of the vote in the traditionally liberal 13th District seat. Joining Migden in the Assembly in January will be Los Angeles City Councilmember Jackie Goldberg of the 45th As-

sembly District; Goldberg ran unopposed in her district. Further south, Christine Kehoe, currently a member of the San Diego City Council, won in the 76th Assembly District.

Harris noted that things have changed in the state since voters passed the anti-gay Proposition 22 in March. The initiative requires the state to only recognize marriages between a man and a woman.

"As a direct result of Proposition 22, the terms of the debate regarding discrimination and equality for LGBT Californians have shifted dramatically," Harris said. "CAPE has kept the discussion moving forward in a constructive way, working daily with elected officials throughout the state to address the reality that LGBT families lack most of the legal safeguards that non-gay families enjoy. Since March, CAPE has continued to fight for basic rights and has taken the momentum gained during the Proposition 22 campaign forward to ensure full equality for all Californians." ▼

For more information about CAPE, visit the Web site at www.calcape.org.

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Parents plead for gay son's release from prison, say he is fully rehabilitated

by Ed Walsh

The parents of gay prisoner Robert Rosenkrantz are breaking their silence to plead for the release of their son.

In a tearful November 14 press conference outside the Los Angeles County Superior Court offices in Van Nuys, Barbara and Herbert Rosenkrantz told reporters they are filing a lawsuit against Governor Gray Davis in the hopes that the courts will overturn Davis's re-

cent decision to block their son's parole.

"This day reminds us of the terrible loss of a child suffered by the Redman family, and it humbles us to realize how little we can do to comfort them," said Herbert Rosenkrantz.

"Our son did a terrible thing 15 years ago when he took the life of Steven Redman. Robert deserved to be and has been severely punished for his crime. We all wish we could undo what happened, but we cannot. We wish we

had given our son support at this time of crisis, but we did not. Today, our son is deeply remorseful and fully rehabilitated. He has been repeatedly evaluated by panels of psychiatrists and psychologists employed by the parole board, and each and every examiner has described our son as not dangerous, and fit for release.

"Governor, I want you to know as the parents of Robert Rosenkrantz, we cannot and will not stand idly by and allow you to advance your political agenda over the life of my son," added Herbert Rosenkrantz as his voice choked with emotion.

Since taking office two years ago, Davis has only approved the parole of one murderer, Rose Ann Parker, who was convicted of second-degree murder for killing her abusive boyfriend in 1985. She's scheduled to be released in December. Davis once vowed to stop the parole of all convicted murderers regardless of the circumstances.

The Rosenkrantz's attorney, Rowan Klein, filed the lawsuit with Superior Court Judge Kathryn Ann Stoltz asking her to overturn Davis's decision that blocked Rosenkrantz's parole.

Although Stoltz has previously strongly ruled in Rosenkrantz's favor, she refused to consider the matter and instead said Klein should file the suit with the Court of Appeals. Klein refiled the suit with the Second District Court of Appeals on November 15 and asked the court to give the jurisdiction on the case back to Stoltz, or as an alternate request, hear the case themselves.

The Court of Appeals previously strongly affirmed Stoltz's order that the Board of Prison Terms parole Rosenkrantz. Stoltz had ruled, and the Court of Appeals agreed, that Rosenkrantz had been unfairly denied parole. But the appeals court later handed a setback to Rosenkrantz by ordering Stoltz to take no further action on the case until the governor

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A black and white photograph of a muscular arm, likely male, flexed at the elbow. The hand is holding a single yellow rose. The background is a dark, cloudy sky. The text "STRENGTH AGAINST HIV" is overlaid on the image in a white, sans-serif font.

STRENGTH AGAINST HIV

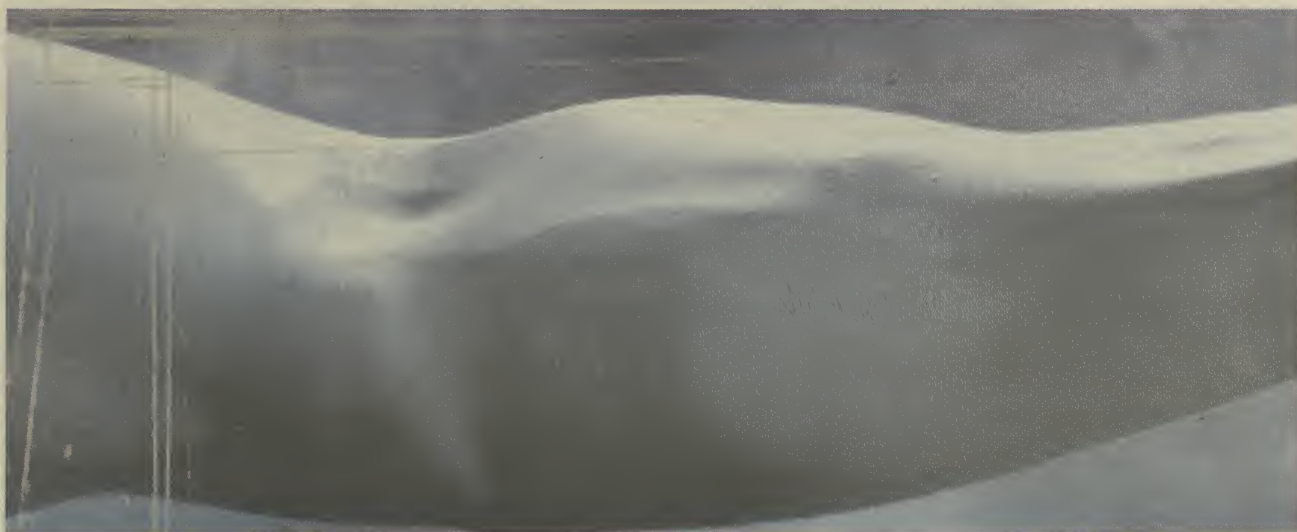
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At present, there are no results from controlled trials evaluating the effect of KALETRA on the clinical progression of HIV.



KALETRA helps fight HIV

New KALETRA, when taken with other medicines, has been shown to reduce the amount of HIV in the blood and increase the number of CD₄ T-cells. However, KALETRA is not a cure for HIV infection or AIDS. The long-term effects of KALETRA are not known at this time either. Individuals taking KALETRA may still develop opportunistic infections or other conditions associated with HIV infection.

Over 24 weeks, most patients found that they could stay with a KALETRA-based regimen. Only 2% of 326 patients stopped taking KALETRA because of drug-related side effects (12% stopped for other reasons).

KALETRA is taken twice daily—in the morning and evening. Your healthcare professional will tell you how much KALETRA to take. KALETRA is to be taken with your choice of food, but there are no rules on what you eat or how much liquid you drink. KALETRA is also available as a liquid.

Safety considerations

KALETRA should not be used with ergotamine, ergonovine, dihydroergotamine, and methylergonovine such as Cafergot®, Migranal®, D.H.E. 45®, Ergotrate Maleate, Methergine® and others, Halcion® (triazolam), Hismanal® (astemizole), Orap® (pimozide), Propulsid® (cisapride), Rythmol® (propafenone), Seldane® (terfenadine), Tambocor™ (flecainide), Versed® (midazolam).

Taking certain drugs with KALETRA could create the potential for life-threatening side effects. Always talk to your doctor or pharmacist before starting new medications.

KALETRA should not be taken if you have had an allergic reaction to KALETRA (lopinavir/ritonavir) or any of its ingredients.

Pancreatitis and liver problems have been reported in patients receiving KALETRA. In some patients taking protease inhibitors, increased bleeding (in patients with hemophilia) and diabetes/high blood sugar have occurred. Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients receiving ARV therapy. Some patients receiving KALETRA have had large increases in triglycerides and cholesterol, which should be monitored before and during therapy.

The most commonly reported KALETRA-related side effects of moderate severity are: abnormal stools, diarrhea, feeling weak/tired, headache, and nausea.

For more information about KALETRA: Call 1-800-441-4987 toll free.
Ask your doctor or other healthcare professional.

Please see adjacent page for Patient Information.

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KALETRA™
(lopinavir/ritonavir) capsules
(lopinavir/ritonavir) oral solution

ALERT: Find out about drugs that should NOT be taken with KALETRA. Please also read the section "MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH KALETRA."

Patient Information
KALETRA™
(kuh-LEE-tra)

Generic Name: lopinavir/ritonavir
(lop-IN-uh-veer/rit-ON-uh-veer)

Read this leaflet carefully before you start taking KALETRA. Also, read it each time you get your KALETRA prescription refilled, in case something has changed. This information does not take the place of talking with your doctor when you start this medicine and at check ups. Ask your doctor if you have any questions about KALETRA.

What is KALETRA and how does it work?

KALETRA is a combination of two medicines. They are lopinavir and ritonavir. KALETRA is a type of medicine called an HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) protease (PRO-tee-ase) inhibitor. KALETRA is always used in combination with other anti-HIV medicines to treat people with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. KALETRA is for adults and for children age 6 months and older.

HIV infection destroys CD4 (T) cells, which are important to the immune system. After a large number of T cells are destroyed, acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) develops. KALETRA blocks HIV protease, a chemical which is needed for HIV to multiply. KALETRA reduces the amount of HIV in your blood and increases the number of T cells. Reducing the amount of HIV in the blood reduces the chance of death or infections that happen when your immune system is weak (opportunistic infections).

Does KALETRA cure HIV or AIDS?

KALETRA does not cure HIV infection or AIDS. The long-term effects of KALETRA are not known at this time. People taking KALETRA may still get opportunistic infections or other conditions that happen with HIV infection. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, and *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infections.

Does KALETRA reduce the risk of passing HIV to others?

KALETRA does not reduce the risk of passing HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination. Continue to practice safe sex and do not use or share dirty needles.

How should I take KALETRA?

- You should stay under a doctor's care when taking KALETRA. Do not change your treatment or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.
- You must take KALETRA every day exactly as your doctor prescribed it. The dose of KALETRA may be different for you than for other patients. Follow the directions from your doctor, exactly as written on the label.
- Dosing in adults (including children 12 years of age and older): The usual dose for adults is 3 capsules (400/100 mg) or 5.0 mL of the oral solution twice a day (morning and night), in combination with other anti-HIV medicines.
- Dosing in children from 6 months to 12 years of age: Children from 6 months to 12 years of age can also take KALETRA. The child's doctor will decide the right dose based on the child's weight.
- Take KALETRA with food to help it work better.
- Do not change your dose or stop taking KALETRA without first talking with your doctor.
- When your KALETRA supply starts to run low, get more from your doctor or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to KALETRA and become harder to treat.
- Be sure to set up a schedule and follow it carefully.
- Only take medicine that has been prescribed specifically for you. Do not give KALETRA to others or take medicine prescribed for someone else.

What should I do if I miss a dose of KALETRA?

It is important that you do not miss any doses. If you miss a dose of KALETRA, take it as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose at its regular time. If it is almost time for your next dose, do not take the missed dose. Wait and take the next dose at the regular time. Do not double the next dose.

What happens if I take too much KALETRA?

If you suspect that you took more than the prescribed dose of this medicine, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately.

As with all prescription medicines, KALETRA should be kept out of the reach of young children. KALETRA liquid contains a large amount of alcohol. If a toddler or young child accidentally drinks more than the recommended dose of KALETRA, it could make him/her sick from too much alcohol. Contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately if this happens.

Who should not take KALETRA?

Together with your doctor, you need to decide whether KALETRA is right for you.

- Do not take KALETRA if you are taking certain medicines. These could cause serious side effects that could cause death. Before you take KALETRA, you must tell your doctor about all the medicines you are taking or are planning to take. These include other prescription and non-prescription medicines and herbal supplements.

For more information about medicines you should not take with KALETRA, please read the section titled "MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH KALETRA."

- Do not take KALETRA if you have an allergy to KALETRA or any of its ingredients, including ritonavir or lopinavir.

Can I take KALETRA with other medications?

KALETRA may interact with other medicines, including those you take without a prescription. You must tell your doctor about all the medicines you are taking or planning to take before you take KALETRA.

MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH KALETRA.

- Do not take the following medicines with KALETRA because they can cause serious problems or death if taken with KALETRA:
 - Dihydroergotamine, ergonovine, ergotamine and methylergonovine such as Cafegot®, Migranal®, D.I.E. 45®, Ergotrate Maleate, Methergine, and others
 - Halcion® (triazolam)
 - Hismanal® (astemizole)
 - Orap® (pimozide)
 - Propulsid® (cisapride)
 - Rhythmol® (propafenone)
 - Seldap® (terfenadine)
 - Tambocor® (flecainide)
 - Versed® (midazolam)
- Do not take KALETRA with rifampin, also known as Rimactane®, Rifadin®, Rifater®, or Rifamate®. Rifampin may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood and make it less effective.
- Do not take KALETRA with St. John's wort (hypericum perforatum), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or planning to take St. John's wort. Taking St. John's wort may decrease KALETRA levels and lead to increased viral load and possible resistance to KALETRA or cross-resistance to other anti-HIV medicines.
- Do not take KALETRA with the cholesterol-lowering medicines Mevacor® (lovastatin) or Zocor® (simvastatin) because of possible serious reactions. There is also an increased risk of drug interactions between KALETRA and Lipitor® (atorvastatin) and Baycol® (cerivastatin); talk to your doctor before you take any of these cholesterol-reducing medicines with KALETRA.

Medicines that require dosage adjustments:

It is possible that your doctor may need to increase or decrease the dose of other medicines when you are also taking KALETRA. Remember to tell your doctor all medicines you are taking or plan to take.

Before you take Viagra® (sildenafil) with KALETRA, talk to your doctor about problems these two medicines can cause when taken together. You may get increased side effects of VIAGRA, such as low blood pressure, vision changes, and penis erection lasting more than 4 hours. If an erection lasts longer than 4 hours, get medical help right away to avoid permanent damage to your penis. Your doctor can explain these symptoms to you.

- If you are taking oral contraceptives ("the pill") to prevent pregnancy, you should use an additional or different type of contraception since KALETRA may reduce the effectiveness of oral contraceptives.
- Efavirenz (Sustiva™) or nevirapine (Viramune®) may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood. Your doctor may increase your dose of KALETRA if you are also taking efavirenz or nevirapine.
- If you are taking Mycobutin® (rifabutin), your doctor will lower the dose of Mycobutin.
- A change in therapy should be considered if you are taking KALETRA with:
 - Phenobarbital
 - Phenytoin (Dilantin® and others)
 - Carbamazepine (Tegretol® and others)

These medicines may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood and make it less effective.

Other Special Considerations:

KALETRA oral solution contains alcohol. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or planning to take metronidazole or disulfiram. Severe nausea and vomiting can occur.

If you are taking both didanosine (Videx®) and KALETRA:

Didanosine (Videx®) should be taken one hour before or two hours after KALETRA.

What are the possible side effects of KALETRA?

- This list of side effects is not complete. If you have questions about side effects, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist. You should report any new or continuing symptoms to your doctor right away. Your doctor may be able to help you manage these side effects.
- The most commonly reported side effects of moderate severity that are thought to be drug related are: abnormal stools (bowel movements), diarrhea, feeling weak/tired, headache, and nausea. Children taking KALETRA may sometimes get a skin rash.
- Blood tests in patients taking KALETRA may show possible liver problems. People with liver disease such as Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C who take KALETRA may have worsening liver disease. Liver problems including death have occurred in patients taking KALETRA. In studies, it is unclear if KALETRA caused these liver problems because some patients had other illnesses or were taking other medicines.
- Some patients taking KALETRA can develop serious problems with their pancreas (pancreatitis), which may cause death. You have a higher chance of having pancreatitis if you have had it before. Tell your doctor if you have nausea, vomiting, or abdominal pain. These may be signs of pancreatitis.
- Some patients have large increases in triglycerides and cholesterol. The long-term chance of getting complications such as heart attacks or stroke due to increases in triglycerides and cholesterol caused by protease inhibitors is not known at this time.
- Diabetes and high blood sugar (hyperglycemia) occur in patients taking protease inhibitors such as KALETRA. Some patients had diabetes before starting protease inhibitors, others did not. Some patients need changes in their diabetes medicine. Others needed new diabetes medicine.
- Changes in body fat happen in some patients getting anti-HIV medicines. These changes may include increased fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast and abdomen (stomach area). Loss of fat from the face, legs, and arms may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.
- Some patients with hemophilia have increased bleeding with protease inhibitors.
- There have been other side effects in patients taking KALETRA. However, these side effects may have been due to other medicines that patients were taking or to the illness itself. Some of these side effects can be serious.

What should I tell my doctor before taking KALETRA?

- *If you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant:* The effects of KALETRA on pregnant women or their unborn babies are not known.
- *If you are breastfeeding:* You should not breast-feed if you have HIV. If you are a woman who has or will have a baby, talk with your doctor about the best way to feed your baby. You should be aware that if your baby does not already have HIV, there is a chance that HIV can be transmitted through breast-feeding.
- *If you have liver problems:* If you have liver problems or are infected with Hepatitis B or Hepatitis C, you should tell your doctor before taking KALETRA.
- *If you have diabetes:* Some people taking protease inhibitors develop new or more serious diabetes or high blood sugar. Tell your doctor if you have diabetes or an increase in thirst or frequent urination.
- *If you have hemophilia:* Patients taking KALETRA may have increased bleeding.

How do I store KALETRA?

- Keep KALETRA and all other medicines out of the reach of children.
- Refrigerated KALETRA capsules and oral solution remain stable until the expiration date printed on the label. If stored at room temperature up to 77°F (25°C), KALETRA capsules and oral solution should be used within 2 months.

Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. Be sure that if you throw any medicine away, it is out of the reach of children.

General advice about prescription medicines:

Talk to your doctor or other health care provider if you have any questions about this medicine or your condition. Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Patient Information Leaflet. If you have any concerns about this medicine, ask your doctor. Your doctor or pharmacist can give you information about this medicine that was written for health care professionals. Do not use this medicine for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not share this medicine with other people.

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Amid dire statistics, Africa readies itself for World AIDS Day

by S. Predrag

Africa is getting ready to commemorate yet another World AIDS Day—next Friday, December 1—but this continent has not had much success in its battle against the disease, with over 6,000 AIDS-related deaths each day—five every hour in Zimbabwe and 18 per hour in Kenya.

Last year alone, AIDS killed 2.6 million people from all over the world, but close to 90 percent of these deaths occurred in Africa; mostly in the Southern African countries.

Many experts believe that Botswana is the worst-affected country on this continent. The UNAIDS agency claims that 25 percent of men and women in Botswana, which has a total population of about 1.5 million people, have already been affected by the deadly virus.

Joy Phumaphi, Botswana's minister of health, admitted last weekend that the life expectancy in Botswana had dropped from 67 years to 45 years. "The stigma created around the disease [AIDS] is even bigger than the epidemic itself," Phumaphi said.

AIDS is still stigmatized in many African countries where people find it easier and more acceptable to lie and say that their family member died of malaria, tuberculosis, or any other illness, but not AIDS.

The executive director of UNAIDS, Dr. Peter Piot, has repeatedly warned that the AIDS stigma "is alive and powerful ... [and] ... the impact that AIDS is already having on sub-Saharan Africa is catastrophic, and the scenario could only worsen."

Although Africa is home to just 10 percent of the world's population, it has the dubious honor of being home to 24 million out of

34 million HIV-infected people throughout the world. To make matters worse, this is just an official estimate—many analysts believe that even this figure is conservative because in South Africa alone the number of HIV-infected people is fast-increasing, with 1,700 new cases being reported every day.

Just recently, for the very first time, Nigeria (with over 100 million inhabitants) disclosed that it is recording a new HIV infection every minute. This has come as a huge shock to many Nigerians who, for years now, have been under the illusion that AIDS had somehow magically overlooked their country.

Zimbabwe, with its population of 12 million people, is not lagging far behind Botswana. Nearly one in four adults are HIV-infected. In Zambia and Namibia the figure is one in five, one in seven in Kenya, and one in eight in South Africa.

AIDS has reduced the life expectancy in certain African countries by about 20 years. For example, a child born in an African country with a high AIDS rate can expect to live, on average, only 43 years. On the other hand, in earlier times, when AIDS was not raging out of control, a child born in South Africa or Zimbabwe could have expected to live up to 60 or 65 years old.

Uganda: A rare example

Uganda is a positive, although rare, example of an African country which has managed to reduce its number of HIV infections as a result of years of intensive AIDS awareness campaigns which enjoyed massive government and international support. The HIV infection rate in Uganda has declined from 13 percent in 1994 to less than 10 percent last year.

However, it is taking an inex-

placably long time to break through the wall of silence surrounding AIDS.

At the 13th International AIDS Conference, held in July in Durban, South Africa, many experts warned that massive awareness campaigns were badly needed to shatter the taboos posed by culture and tradition in many African countries. AIDS is here to stay—the scientists warned in their wake-up call to African leaders.

Unfortunately for many AIDS activists, researchers, and those living with the disease, South African President Thabo Mbeki used the Durban conference to question—yet again—the mainstream scientific view that HIV causes AIDS. He sided with dissident AIDS scientists who claim that other factors, including poverty and malnutrition, play an important role.

This controversial stand is already harming the battle against AIDS in certain African countries, experts said. Especially since, in the absence of an anti-AIDS vaccine and cheap drugs, this continent with more than 800 million people has a slim chance of stopping the spread of AIDS without massive awareness campaigns. ▼



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Positive Force is a program of the STOP AIDS Project for all HIV+ gay and bi men.

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PLUS2
seminar

Rosenkrantz

◀ page 12

made a decision on whether to block parole. Davis blocked parole on October 28, saying that he believed Rosenkrantz remains a threat to society and deserves to spend more time locked up.

Rosenkrantz was 18 in 1985 when he shot and killed Redman, his former schoolmate. A week earlier, Redman, along with Rosenkrantz's younger brother, burst into a high school graduation party hosted by Rosenkrantz, yelling "faggots." Redman broke Rosenkrantz's nose with a flashlight and later outed Rosenkrantz to his father.

Rosenkrantz left home after his father gave him the ultimatum to give him the names of everyone who attended the party or get out. He had been living out of his car for a week when he confronted Redman outside Redman's home in Calabasas, in suburban Los Angeles County.

According to Rosenkrantz's testimony, he demanded Redman come back with him to his parents' house to take back the outing or he would shoot up his car with

the Uzi he recently purchased. Redman responded: "I'm not going anywhere with you, you fucking faggot." The pair argued and Rosenkrantz opened fire, shooting Redman 10 times.

Rosenkrantz fled to Northern California and turned himself in three weeks later. He was convicted of second-degree murder and sentenced to 17-years-to-life.

Herbert Rosenkrantz, a prominent Los Angeles attorney, said he blamed himself for grilling his son like an attorney instead of a father after the graduation party attack. The elder Rosenkrantz said if he had been more understanding, the angst his son was feeling over his homosexuality being disclosed would have been defused without escalating into further violence.

During the press conference, Barbara Rosenkrantz addressed her son directly.

"Your father and your brothers and I will never stop believing in you nor will we abandon our efforts to help you to find freedom," she said.

Steve Redman's family refused all media requests for interviews.

Barring court intervention, Rosenkrantz will be eligible for parole again in June 2001. ▼

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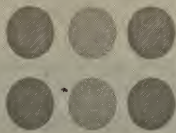
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**Investing in civil rights, AIDS**

Recipients and board members of Grass Roots Gay Rights West on Thursday, November 16, celebrated the distribution of two \$24,000 grants to Home Care Companions and the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund. The money was raised at the 12th annual "Real Bad" dance party, held in September after the Folsom Street Fair. Home Care Companions teaches practical skills for living with serious illnesses. Lambda is the only nationwide nonprofit law firm for the LGBT civil rights movement.

**Grace Cathedral to
dedicate AIDS chapel**

by Cynthia Laird

After five years of development, Grace Cathedral Episcopal Church will celebrate the dedication of the Interfaith AIDS Memorial Chapel on Thursday, November 30.

Bishop William Swing will consecrate the altar, with representatives from a variety of faiths attending. Officials said that Grace Cathedral remembers those who have died of AIDS. The dedication will allow participants to express their message of hope, compassion, and understanding about AIDS on a global basis right before World AIDS Day, which is Friday, December 1.

McKenzie Ward, with Grace

Cathedral, said that if not for the passion and generosity of many people, the chapel would have remained a dream. The interfaith chapel was established to provide a sanctuary of understanding, comfort, and remembrance. It embraces those who come to pay their respects. Throughout the ages, communities' stories have been shared through their places of worship.

The inspiration for the chapel came from a piece of artwork created by the late Keith Haring, who died of AIDS-related complications in 1990. His altarpiece, "The Life of Christ," was in need of a permanent home after being exhibited at the Palo Alto Cultural Center. It made perfect sense to house the artwork at Grace Cathedral,

officials said, which is a house of prayer for all people. What took place in the years prior to the consecration was a lot of fundraising and contributions by people who believed in the project.

Some of the contributors include James Hormel, ambassador to Luxembourg, who donated \$25,000; San Francisco designer John Wheatman, who contributed his vision and design; Les Silverman of STG Graphics; Steve Pargman of CBS Design; Don Bogish of Hampton Lane; and Mike Dean, president, Western Exhibitors.

The November 30 dedication starts at 5:15 p.m. at Grace Cathedral, 1100 California Street, in San Francisco. ▼

PlanetOut

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zine *HIV Plus*.

Indeed this fear of homogeneity is hardly unfounded, judging from the recent presidential endorsements; it was shocking to read the praises of George W. Bush in the liberal Boulder, Colorado newspaper, but further investigation revealed the exact editorial appearing in newspapers across the country owned by the same conglomerate. As large companies swallow up smaller media, the same situation repeats itself: the editorial board is beholden to an ownership that may dictate not only content but bias, as a company that owns all the small papers can do whatever it wants without worrying about readership, for there is no competition.

This potentially narrow scope is what worries the gay newspaper *Southern Voice*, published out of Atlanta.

"When upstart *Out* landed on the scene in 1992, the mag was a kick in the pants for the elder *Advocate*, and the two competed to break stories and stimulate readers," said a November 16 editorial that pointed to the two magazines' now-identical formats and new censorship policies as deplorable.

"It's putting more power in fewer hands," agreed New York-based activist Bill Dobbs. "It's worrisome. With the concentration of ownership of media outlets in fewer hands the manipulation of information is easier, and

minority populations are most vulnerable to that."

Almost as if anticipating a backlash, the big players at Gay.com and PlanetOut.com emphasized to the *Bay Area Reporter* that the merger would in fact create room for more, not less, diversity. Yes, the merger was born because the two sites seemed to be endlessly competing for each other's content, a scenario that appeared likely to result in the future loss of one of the mammoths. But PlanetOut's Smith said that creating a large giant will ensure a diversity of voices because it will create leverage with advertisers.

"Part of this merger is much more about creating a corporate backbone," Smith told the *B.A.R.* "Our community has lots of different voices, so we need lots of different products, and this partnership allows us to present to advertisers our community in all of its diversity."

A quick look at both Web sites indicates that those new products — anything serious, anyway — will be marketed predominately to white people. The people of color represented on both PlanetOut.com and Gay.com seem permanently relegated to the personals pages.

Inside the companies themselves, Smith could not provide specific diversity statistics for her workforce, but estimated that 20-30 percent of both companies are heterosexual.

But if a diversity scarcity is already the situation at both companies, it's probably true that less

diversity couldn't happen as a result of the merger.

Gay.com's Selvin said that the coming together could only improve representation, as evidenced by the site's election night coverage.

"We had everyone from Bruce Vilanch and Kate Clinton to Tammy Baldwin and David Mixner online, interacting in real time with thousands of users," said Selvin. "This isn't a quieting of voices, it's an amplification."

Selvin did acknowledge, however, that opening up that number two spot by forming one leading company did not necessarily leave room for other online gay markets to grow.

"It would be very difficult to fill that slot," said Selvin, "since we are truly so much larger than the next number two."

PlanetOut's funding, about \$10 million, includes sponsorship from America Online. AOL, a business known for alleged homophobic censorship and of course the infamous outing of Navy man Timothy McVeigh to the United States military, engages in a "very productive church and state relationship" with PlanetOut, according to Smith. "We are allowed to be critical of them and make suggestions. And they have in fact been a leader in supporting our community, defending gay and lesbian chat rooms long before they caught on."

Gay.com's \$23 million in contributions comes from Chase Capital Partners, Flatiron Partners, and other financial backers. ▼

Presidential race continues in Florida

by Bob Roehr

Hanging chads, phalanxes of snarling lawyers, enough big hair and cosmetics for a room full of drag queens, but even with all of those elements, the political soap opera playing in Florida doesn't seem to be holding America's close attention. Instead of a constitutional crisis, most people seem content to let the process play out on its own time, confident that whoever wins will be sworn into office in January as scheduled.

Things stand pretty much where they were on election night, or rather morning, with George W. Bush clinging to a whisper of a lead for Florida's 25 electoral votes and with it the presidency of the United States. Absentee ballots, including those of members of the military on duty overseas, have added to his lead as predicted, boosting it to 930.

Hand recounts of counties in the Democratic strongholds of South Florida have added to Al Gore's vote total. Perhaps the only surprise is that Gore has not gained more with the recount that still continues. In Palm Beach County, with about 20 percent of the votes handled, he had netted a total of only three votes.

It is still unclear if any of the hand-counted ballots, after a count and recount by machine, will be included in the official totals. Republican Katherine Harris, the elected secretary of state, maintains that vote totals reported seven days after Election Day, as



For the second consecutive Saturday, protesters gathered at Market and Powell streets in downtown San Francisco November 18 to express their support for Vice President Al Gore and the Florida recount.

required by state law, are the official results (absent overseas ballots) and will be certified as such. Any later hand counts will not be included. Democrats have challenged that ruling.

State and federal courts have rendered multiple decisions, tossing at least the psychological edge first to one candidate, then the other, only to keep the election in play without ending the process.

Perhaps the key event came on Monday, November 20 when the Florida Supreme Court heard oral arguments on Gore's suit to force Harris to accept the hand recount as official results. Voting is "one of our most cherished rights in our democracy," said Chief Justice Charles T. Wells early in the session. The justices did not tip their hand as they peppered Bush's at-

torneys with questions why Harris had to certify the election re-

sults within seven days, and Gore's attorneys with why they believed

Shalala makes post-administration plans

by Cynthia Laird

Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala will become president of the University of Miami next year, it was reported Saturday, November 18.

Shalala is the longest-serving HHS secretary, and she has led the department since President Clinton took office in 1993. She will remain until Clinton's term ends on January 20. Her new job is expected to begin in June 2001.

Shalala has been widely criti-

cized by gay and lesbian officials and many public health officials over the years for refusing to lift the ban on needle exchanges, despite voluminous evidence that needle exchange programs do not increase illegal drug use and do help prevent HIV infection.

As HHS secretary, Shalala has overseen health and welfare policy for the government while running a department with 61,000 employees. That includes the Medicare and Medicaid programs, the National Institutes of Health, the Food and Drug Administra-

Harris's interpretation of the law was wrong.

They asked Harris's attorney, Joseph Klock Jr., if it was fair to cut off the recount, even if it began late in the post-Election Day period. He answered in terms familiar to anyone who has ever been a student: "You can start the term paper the night before if you want, but the fact of the matter is, you have to turn it in the morning it is due."

The court did not issue a decision that day but is likely to do so before Thanksgiving.

Saturday Night Live offered one interesting alternative to the current stalemate. It portrayed an "odd couple" co-presidency with Bush as the sloppy Oscar Madison and Gore as the pernickety Felix Unger. But the odds remain that George W. Bush will be sworn in as president in January. ▼

On Friday, December 1st, take a few hours off for a provocative and informative afternoon about your life!

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Presented by UCSF AIDS Research Institute

The 4th Annual World
AIDS Day Symposium



DATE/TIME

- Friday, December 1st, 2:00-5pm
- Reception with speakers following the symposium

LOCATION

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513 Parnassus (accessible by N Judah and other lines)

RSVP

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SPECIAL PREVIEW OF QUEER AS FOLK,
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This forum is funded in part by a grant from the University of California San Francisco-Gladstone Institute of Virology & Immunology Center for AIDS Research, a part of the AIDS Research Institute

Report back from FDA advisory panel

by Jeff Gustavson,
Survive AIDS Writers Pool

The FDA held an advisory committee hearing on October 16 to discuss the evaluation of immune-based therapies (IBTs). This meeting was to be informational and not focused on any one specific product, educating the members of the committee with respect to IBTs. There was clearly no decision made to accept any other surrogate markers other than the already proven measures of CD4/T-helper cell increase and decrease in viral load. What this means, however, is that the onus remains with drug developers to tie a candidate surrogate marker to clinical outcome before it could be

accepted. Nevertheless, if education could be said to be the goal of the meeting, it was a success.

What we need

Dr. Larry Fox, in full United States Public Health Service uniform from the Division of AIDS at the National Institutes of Health, reviewed the limitations of antiretroviral therapy throughout the world. The well-established problems of toxicity, adherence, cost, and incomplete virologic suppression for some people all point to the inadequacy of combination therapy today. The need for less toxic, more effective, cheaper, and easier to take regimens is very apparent. Nevertheless, since eradication only seems likely for patients treated in acute infection,

other means of controlling the virus are necessary. Fox showed the worldwide prevalence of HIV, 90 percent of which is in developing nations, with India on the verge of a major catastrophe. The need for more inexpensive therapies couldn't be greater.

What we know

Dr. Dan Kuritzkes, from University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, spoke on what we've learned from antiretroviral therapy. Within the context of clinical trials with naive (have never before used antiretrovirals) persons of long duration and a large number of participants, the virologic failure rates are low that is, most people have suppressed viral replication to beneath the limits of detection. Kuritzkes said that the half-life (how long the presence of something takes to go from 100 percent to 50 percent) of infectious virus is one to two hours, and the half life of infected activated T-cells is one and a half days.

Kuritzkes went on to discuss the virologic methods beyond viral load by which a given therapy could be tested, both direct and indirectly. The frequency of viral DNA could be assayed—the number of T-cells which had integrated viral DNA but were not actively producing virus. A slow turnover, however, in this population would have uncertain relevance. One could also quantitatively culture latently infected cells—see how much virus would be produced—but this procedure requires a large amount of blood, is labor intensive, and has a lot of interassay variability, rendering any results obtained unclear. Another test that could be run is to look at the number of cells containing two long terminal repeat (LTR) circles, as evidence of recent viral replication in a given cell. One could also use *in situ* (in place) hybridization (sticking of introduced material) of spliced/unspliced RNA. RNA, which is copied from a cell's DNA has what are called introns, superfluous pieces that like a film which is edited are cut out of it before it is read on the ribosomes and proteins made by reading this blueprint. This method, however, has large inter-patient variability. Indirect methods include rate of viral rebound off therapy (how fast your virus comes back), the magnitude of viral rebound, and control of viremia off therapy.

What we might know

Dr. Michael Lederman, from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, spoke of the only *in vivo* (in people rather than test tubes) measure of adaptive immunity (as distinct from innate—that is, specific for a given pathogen), delayed-type hypersensitivity (DTH) skin tests. A delayed-type hypersensitivity (hypersensitivity type IV) reaction is the same as what results from poison oak or poison ivy. The loss of adaptive immunity is the hallmark of what constitutes AIDS.

A DTH test is where a small amount of antigen (a small piece of a pathogen) is injected beneath the surface of your skin. If your immune system has seen this antigen before, and your CD4/T-helper cells have proliferated as a result, you will mount a reaction to it visible to the naked eye in the form of

swelling. Of course, since HIV disease involves the progressive loss of CD4 cells, and the cells that are there may be anergic (don't respond appropriately), an HIV-positive person may not respond to an antigen that they've seen before. This is the reason that shingles, which is merely a recurrence of chicken pox that most people had in their youth, is common among people with suppressed immune systems including the elderly. DTH tests are commonly used to screen for tuberculosis.

Lederman proposed immunizing with neoantigens (things never before seen by people) after a given therapy and seeing if a response could be generated via antibody levels, DTH and other *in vitro* (laboratory-based) assays, showing that the immune system had been enhanced by the

therapy. He was also candid that DTH tests had their limitations in that their reading was not standardized, somewhat not reproducible and they did not test the efferent limb of the lymphatic system. The lymphatic system (that involving white blood cells) is divided into the afferent and efferent limbs. The afferent limb is when white cells are coming from the tissues to the lymph nodes and the efferent limb is after they leave the lymph nodes and return to the tissues. In other words, if you get a swelling, so what? What happens after the swelling? Would a challenge with a pathogen be successfully controlled?

What we don't know

Thomas Fleming, Ph.D., spoke on the limitations of surrogacy. In defining a surrogate marker, one that substitutes for disease progression, he said the marker must be sensitive to effect and have proven clinical relevance. Screening evaluations such as viral load, immunophenotype (the numbers of naive/memory cells), as well as immunofunctional assays can be contrasted with definitive evaluations such as survival, symptomatic events and functional status. Fleming said the risk in choosing a surrogate is that it may only lie on one pathway of the illness and may miss what is really going on. He stressed that a surrogate must correlate with clinical outcome and it must fully capture the net effect of treatment upon clinical outcome. This is why there has been a mood shift to consider the composite marker of viral load with CD4 count since viral load does not tell the whole picture.

Talk amongst yourselves

The most interesting part of the day was when it was time for the panel to discuss IBTs. Dr. Robert "Chip" Schooley, also from the University of Colorado Health Services Center and chair of the AIDS Clinical Trials Group (ACTG), said "We don't need to reinvent the wheel. A decrease in viral replication" is an acceptable means by which to approve an IBT. He also said that toxicity must be considered and a proposed mechanism of action must be proven. Schooley continued, "No parameter should be considered in isolation. What else besides CD4? Well, the magnitude of the decrease in viral load and the durability of an effect must be taken into account."

Dr. Matthews said, "Focusing

on a laboratory measure that has a single integrated overall benefit and has gone through a series of rigorous trials" would be an acceptable measure by which to judge an IBT.

Dr. Michael Saag, from the University of Alabama at Birmingham, said "biologic plausibility" must be shown. He commented that in an early trial of protease inhibitors in combination therapy, of those that were virologic responders but had no concurrent rise in CD4 cell count, at four years out had a death rate of 40 percent. "This became apparent do to the obligation of Phase IV [post-marketing studies] inherent in accelerated approval," Saag said.

The community representative on the panel, Brenda Lein from Project Inform, said that therapies for HIV needed a "reality check. Changes in viral load are perhaps least useful for people with advanced stage illness [low CD4 counts]."

NIH's Fox, speaking from the floor, said, "What is needed are composite endpoints—viral load, CD4, and toxicity. I think what we will soon be seeing is a shift from a model of continuous antiviral therapy to a cancer model of intermittent therapy, where toxicity is reduced. If we don't act now to capture people going off therapy [who may wish to enroll in trials of IBTs], we run the risk of being left behind by our patients." This last remark was cheered by the audience.

Saag expressed "not all AIDS defining illnesses are created equal. Clearly PML [progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy—a neurologic complication of AIDS] is not the same as esophageal candidiasis [thrush in your throat]."

How to proceed

Schooley said a complete immune restoration may not be necessary since there is redundancy in the immune system. Lederman said that DTH and other laboratory based assays need to be validated. Lein called on collaboration and sharing of samples from industry and government run trials to coordinate validation of surrogates.

Schooley pretty much summed up the state of affairs by saying, "The agency [FDA] is in unique position to foster collaborations. The field is on the verge of gaining critical insight into markers of relevance. The ALLRT [ACTG Longitudinal Linked Randomized Trial] will link markers to clinical events."

So sue me

The day could be considered frustrating if one had hoped for definitive guidance as to how IBTs will be approved. However, the important thing is that dialogue was started around the issue, however late in coming it was. It has been said that the FDA's acceptance of viral load came from a big push from industry as well as the community. A similar push now must be made for IBTs, not lawsuits for publishing data that shows an IBT to have no effect. Dr. Jim Kahn at the University of California, San Francisco, is to be congratulated for doing the right thing and publishing his results on Remune in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* showing Remune had no positive effect on participants. The Forum for Collaborative HIV research will be holding a two-day meeting on developing IBTs in early December. The FDA meeting was just the first step in the process of hopefully bringing effective IBTs to the public. ▼

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Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization – and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste.

If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

Robert Daniel, Jr.

December 25, 1965 — October 19, 2000

Robert made his transition among the fall foliage in Maryland. At the time of his passing from AIDS he was surrounded by his partner, mother and two sisters. He released calmly and peacefully.



ly. Robert loved cooking, music, and nature, and was very committed to his community. He was hysterically funny and loved life. He worked for AIDS Project of the East

Bay for five years helping others struggling with the disease. He loved creating a loving home for him and his partner, Bill. He charmingly never outgrew the childhood excitement of Christmas season. He also loved hosting an annual pumpkin carving party.

He leaves behind his partner Bill Flanigan and dog Nicki, mother Grace Daniel, father Bob Daniel, Sr., sisters Lavita Daniel, Chris Clark, and Rebecca Reid, and six nieces and nephews.

We wish you lots of light and unconditional love as you continue your journey. We'll be along soon.

Scott Patrick Dowie

November 2, 1962 — October 29, 2000

Another angel has been called to watch over us. While washed in a halo of afternoon sunlight, Scott relinquished his spirit to heaven on October 29th. Although Scott struggled with HIV disease for many years with proud dignity, he



was always more concerned with those he loved. This extraordinary care for others led him on an incredible journey throughout his life.

Scott had the amazing ability to light up a room with his boyish Iowa charm and wholesome appearance. In 1986, he followed his heart to San Francisco in pursuit of romance. Fortunately for those he loved, his greatest gift was the ability to share that romantic passion with others.

Prior to arriving in San Francisco, Scott began his life in Des Moines. After attending the University of Iowa, he pursued his profession in the food and wine industry. His love of culinary arts led to five years as Food and Beverage Manager at the Mandarin Oriental, San Francisco. When his health required that he go on disability, he focused his energy on travel with his partner and volunteered as the Executive Director of The Conant Foundation during the past decade. His personal challenges with AIDS became his inspiration to make a difference for patients and providers through a respected HIV community educational forum.

A service will be held on Saturday, December 2nd at 11 a.m. at the Swedish Church, 2107 Lyon Street in San

Francisco. A private celebration of Scott's life will follow at Restaurant 2223. Anyone wishing to make a contribution in Scott's memory should send checks to The Conant Foundation, 479 Collingwood Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. Please note the donation is for The Scott Dowie Scholarship Fund.

Scott will always be remembered by his loving partner of seven years, John Vosburgh, his wide circle of friends, and through the love of his family, especially his mother Dorothy, his father Lawrence, his sister Karen, and brothers Doug, Dave, Tim, and Jim.

Dennis Jon Smith

Dennis, long a playful presence in San Francisco and the Russian River, passed away peacefully on November 16, 2000. He spent his final months in his home, surrounded by the love and care of his friends and family. Dennis was 57.

Dennis is survived by his partner of



25 years, Glen Gertmanian, by his brother, Ron, and by his children, Michael and Lisa.

A lifelong resident of the Bay Area, Dennis had a distinguished career in systems and technology, retiring early from IBM and then moving on to a second profession with Transamerica Corporation. He also volunteered wonderful Web development work for community charities.

The world will not be the same without Dennis.

Services will be held on December 6th. Please contact Glen, at their home, for further information. Remembrances, in Dennis' name, may be made to the National AIDS Memorial Grove, 856 Stanyon Street, San Francisco, CA 94117.

Thanksgiving

◀ page 1

city to the federal government as part of an appeal for financial assistance. And the coalition says the number is only growing.

In short, the poor are getting poorer.

And during the holidays, several charities pull out all the stops to give truly grand feasts, free celebrations that make the holidays brighter for thousands of families of all kinds, and particularly people who might otherwise be alone for the holidays.

Give a casserole, or a couple bucks, or a few hours of your time to one of the annual Thanksgiving dinners being organized all over town for the most economically challenged and culturally down-trodden among us. A few are listed below.

In the spirit of the season, don't be a turkey.

Every week, the **Glide Memorial United Methodist Church**, at 330 Ellis Street, offers a great opportunity to get out of your shell and immerse yourself in giving thanks by lending a hand. But if you were inspired to volunteer for this San Francisco institution's celebration, too bad for you – the church happily reports that they're booked with volunteers for Thursday's feast.

No one that's hungry for a turkey and fixins will be turned away, however – more than 8,000

are expected to be served at the church's special Thanksgiving dinner which begins at 9 a.m. and continues until 2 p.m. on Thursday. A special church service takes place at 10 a.m.

Donations of food are still needed, including frozen or unfrozen turkeys, canned food, or anything appropriate for a traditional, family-style Thanksgiving banquet.

You can also help kick off Glide's annual toy drive by bringing a new, unwrapped gift to the church on Thursday, and remember to sign up early to set-up, serve up, or clean up at the church's Yuletide feasts.

To donate, or for more information, call (415) 674-6000.

In the Castro neighborhood, which has its share of homeless, too, the **Most Holy Redeemer Church** of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese and the **Metropolitan Community Church-San Francisco** are co-sponsoring a Community Thanksgiving Meal from noon to 2 p.m. on Thursday.

Though this grand food fest is also booked with volunteer cooks, servers, and cleaners, dinner organizers report that they are welcoming donations of \$30. Donations in this amount will pay for one turkey. Prepared vegetables and casseroles are needed as well.

The Most Holy Redeemer/MCC-SF dinner will be held in the Catholic church's large hall at 100 Diamond Street.

For more information, call Most Holy Redeemer at (415)

863-6259, or MCC-SF at (415) 865-2749.

And just in case you've become concerned that no one wants your help, fear not: there is one event in urgent need of volunteers. The famously festive **Tenderloin Tessie's Thanksgiving Dinner** will serve a free turkey dinner with all the trimmings from 1 to 4 p.m. on Thursday. The event will be held at the First Unitarian Universalist Church at 1187 Franklin at Geary Street.

Unlike the two aforementioned Thanksgiving meals, Tessie's dinner organizers report they are still in need of volunteers.

"I'm usually in the kitchen cooking the food, getting it all warmed up and ready to go," said Jim Blesner, who suggested he will have to be even more of a "Pushy Phyllis," as he is affectionately known among fellow Tessie's dinner organizers, if he doesn't get a lot more help with the chores. "We feed anywhere from 800 to 1,600. Hopefully Thursday we'll be ready for 1,600."

So if you're not flying back to Kansas to stuff yourself with mom's cooking, roll up your sleeves, don an apron, and pitch in to help other volunteers cook, serve, or clean this Thanksgiving. Tessie's helpers are needed to work in shifts on Thursday between the hours of 8 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Volunteers or donors of food or funds for the Tenderloin Tessie Thanksgiving Dinner should call Tom Basch at (415) 922-0422. ▼

District 8

◀ page 1

current board member of the HIV/AIDS employment organization Positive Resource Center, announced last week – along with fellow former candidate Shawn O'Hearn – that he would be throwing his support and fundraising abilities behind Hansen's campaign.

"It's clear that 50 percent of this district witnessed the performance of Mark Leno and chose not to have him continue to represent us," said Virginia, who criticized Leno's "Band-Aid" solutions to San Francisco's housing crisis, as well as the incumbent's acceptance of outside-interest soft money. "He is a deal maker, accepting support from people outside the district in exchange for something else, whereas Eileen works from experience, understands process and good policy,

and has no hidden agenda."

Leno asserted that both he and Hansen discouraged soft money contributions, but they came in anyway: his through groups like the Late Night Coalition – a group representing clubs primarily in the South of Market neighborhood – and Hansen's through a slate card printed by the San Francisco Tenants' Union.

"But I will reiterate that I have not and will continue not to accept any corporate contributions or contributions from anyone who has business before the board," Leno told the *B.A.R.*

Hansen, the former policy director for the AIDS Legal Referral Panel, has promised not to take money from anyone who may potentially have interests before the board, a key word that she says Leno avoids including in his pledge. Hansen has also voluntarily abided by a \$20,000 campaign expenditure cap. Leno's runoff budget was not yet available at

press time.

Leno was first appointed by Mayor Brown in April 1998, winning election citywide the following November. His ties to the mayor, while he has loosened them somewhat, remain central to Hansen's campaign.

In the weeks to come, both candidates acknowledge that the holiday season will make it difficult to motivate voters. For Leno, he simply needs to get his core support to the polls, plus a few more. For Hansen, the strategy will include wooing the support from candidates like Virginia and O'Hearn, and encouraging absentee filing.

"We have a potential to get many independents on the board not bound by Mayor Brown," said Hansen. "So we believe we have momentum on our side, because the balance of the board is at stake."

The candidates' positions can be found at their Web sites at www.Leno2000.org and www.EileenHansenSF8.com. ▼



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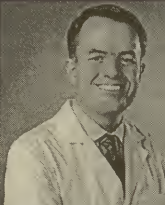
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To serve man

by Jim Provenzano

(The following column was intended as a satire to be published in the Bay Area Reporter's Halloween issue. Unfortunately, scary election stories took precedent, and since then, this "fiction's" foretold events have, in part, occurred. The author had no clue of such a non-fictional merger happening — other than via the pervasive odor.)

Welcome ladies, gentlemen, and others. The doors have been bolted, so we may relax.

Our profit margin is down — well, it's never been up, but our investments are up. There have been many market shifts which have brought us to this propitious occasion.

Our plan to subsume every GLBT media group possible, and aid in the disappearance of all others with our partners, has been stepped up. The Barnsenobians have already begun the campaign of eliminating print media outlets from uncontrollable GLBT sources.

We have merged to become one entity. We shall retain our various names and print publications in a continual effort to outreach the un-netified in our market, but our corporate name shall be unified under the moniker PLANET-GAYCONGLOM.

We have succeeded in planting ourselves with branded entities in nearly every GLBT event, business, and fundraiser, thus perpetuating the presence of philanthropy toward groups and organizations whose power we, of course, are determined to undermine.

Our new wholesale leftover front, InsidesOut.com, has successfully been added to substitute actual online bookstores. Our limited array of only overstocked bestsellers should detract the consuming public from access to any questionable or dissident publications, for as was touted in our parent publication, "An assimilating community is not interested in reading about lesbian or gay difference."

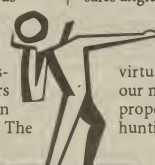
Thus it is with a concerted, conglomerated effort that we are eliminating media coverage of sports in the gay community. We find it to be a dangerously independent mind in one who as an adult queer person, continues in the trivial pursuit of athletics, when clicking through personals ads on our merged sites provides much more valuable marketing infotainment.

True, there have been problems. Certain employees of both of our companies who proved much too opinionated and a bit too much of an "activist." True, we incorporated their ideas only after disposing of them through our usual series of harassments, e-frauds, and blackmailings. These persons were successfully discredited in the same manner as that pesky Orson Welles back in the previous century during a poorly planned landing schedule in New Jersey.

We found many potential ideas in the disposed employees' hard drives that merely needed the usual level of blandishment, mainstreaming, and de-gayifying before farming them into production.

Among these concepts was one former employee's fascination with sports coverage. While we have tossed the prerequisite wad of cash in the face of gullible gay sports entities in order to secure the official online sponsorship of all future GLBTQ sports events, we still have no quantifiable content. But that has never stopped us before.

Among the criticisms of our various sites are the lack of local contacts, coverage, and links to outside "real" events, particularly athletic groups that are not concerned with maintaining good looks, an area we prefer to focus on due to the product-related sales angle.



Sports Complex

We believe in the more personal aspect of sports, the virtual sport. Encouraging our members to acquire the proper "stats" for sexual hunting provides us with a more fertile vocabulary for luring members into chat rooms and personals hunts, instead of actually turning off their computers and venturing into real space for exercise, or to meet in environs that have yet to be fully surveilled.

Virtual sports, like virtual sex, provide us with more quantifiable marketing data with which to better serve our investors. And with the occasional fraudulent health scare, we are able to gradate the quotient of gullibility within our membership.

Why would we encourage people to go out and play sports unsurveilled when the potential loss of interest in double-clicking will result in loss of revenue? We instead will focus on events in far-away locations where travel dollars can be re-channelled through our corporate partners, Out & Out Lost Travelers, who are still moving their office equipment into our new facility, which displaced over a dozen arts and human services groups.

We also report a note of progress on the Coming Out procedure.

While the years-back rumor of Richard Gere and the gerbil made headlines, it was a sad misinterpretation of events. Mr. Gere actually choked while trying to swallow a hamster whole, one of our common practices of carnivorousness, as dramatically depicted in our first film biography, V.

This was the first of many efforts to accustom our market with our presence, as innocuous and potentially dangerous enemies, so that, when faced with the less thrilling reality — that we are lizards from another dimension sent to extinguish individual thought and reduce the human populace to make room for our vast spawning farms — our being discovered will be less traumatic.

We hope our members will come to acknowledge our "coming out" as another form of understanding and furtherance of communications between us and members, between their frontal lobes and our servers. The blending of homophobia and homosexuality has been some of our prime successes particularly in our Eminem, Eltonem dual sale-a-thon.

It is through replicating gay people that our plan is best served, as these humans often resort to unusual means of creative sexual



Close encounters of a corporate kind

expression, or, due to the repressive environment which we are aiding, none at all. By pairing off as domesticated couples, the previous installation of genitalia is unnecessary, since our research shows that gay and lesbian couples stop having actual sex after five years, and with certain celebrity couples, after only a few months.

We regret the unveiling that left one celebrity subject in a delirious state which was widely reported in the news and led to our prime diversion, creating the successful ex-lesbian actress.

Our successful "partnering" with search engines that have no gay content has been successfully merged with a new, even lesser search engine in which the member does the work for us, entering sites for our investigation and eventual elimination. We shall thus achieve more invested millions as our members do the work, bringing together a new "partnership" between user and investor.

We include among our renewing investors Allians Inc., whose support of the Boy Scouts only serves to show their diverse support of community organizations that both expunge and exploit gay people. Further, our "activist" groups having taken right-wing corporate dollars continues this duplicity.

Our provisions of content to Aliens Observe Lots (AOL) have served as a successful merger of further eliminating diversity from this market. We save AOL members from receiving any links that are not ours. In turn, we make sure our content is tastefully appropriate for their use.

That our investors balance the spectrum of right-wing colleges and Boy Scout-aiding firms only shows the diversity of our broadening target market.

AOL is of course known for its privacy, except for gay members of the military, anyone with "gay" or the suffix "lez" in his/her profile, and the constant surveillance by human staffers of the FBI in chat rooms. Our continued governmental compliance in handing over files of suspects has reaped more investment millions.

In accordance with their mandate, we have deleted any personals ads which, although created for the purpose of sex, are deemed too sexual, thus making it a safe space for asexuals, and keeping us safe from having to overextend our legal expenses.

In real space, the landing pad on our roof is in-progress, which of course will only be used on exceptionally foggy days when the larger crafts from other conglomerations are docking.

We hope you will join us in this great 21st century journey as we endeavor to learn how best to replicate the gay community and how best to serve man; steamed, baked, and fried. ▼

Full disclosure: Jim Provenzano worked for Gay.com and PlanetOut.com. For more Sports Complex, visit <http://sportscomplex.org>.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Ted Fang

◀ page 1

really happening. The other thing is the watchword of the *Examiner* is going to be 'diversity.'

Despite widespread reports that he was having difficulty attracting staff, Fang said he expects between 50 and 60 full-time staff to be on board this week, reaching his goal of 80 percent in time for the paper's debut.

"In this case, we have a very atypical situation. We already have the most diverse newsroom in the country," Fang asserted, staffed with recruits from other Bay Area newspapers whom he called "risk-takers and history-makers."

"Diversity" and "history" were words that came up again and again as Fang answered questions about his vision and plans for the *Examiner* — when lunch mate and columnist Warren Hinckle didn't interject with his own contributions on the subject.

The *Examiner* will be the "first newspaper of the 21st century," the 37-year-old Fang noted, adding that it will also be the first major metropolitan daily to be published in the U.S. by an Asian American, as well as the first to be published by an openly gay man.

Fang said that over 100,000 copies of the newspaper will be published on its first day, distributed to newsstands and to the subscriber list his publishing family obtained along with the rest of the business — with the notable exception of its staff — after the 1965 Joint Operating Agreement that allowed the *Chronicle* and *Examiner* to share facilities and overhead costs was dissolved in light of the *Chronicle*'s sale to the Hearst Corporation and the Fangs' purchase of the *Examiner*.

The Hearst Corporation purchased the *Chronicle* from the deYoung family for \$660 million last August. After a lengthy court battle, the sale was finalized earlier this year.

Going head to head with the much larger and reportedly better-paid staff of the new Hearst *Chronicle*, which is absorbing the staff of the old *Examiner* into its existing one for a combined staff of over 500, Fang's *Examiner* will also be a morning paper, though he anticipates it will be "slimmed down as opposed to cutting down more trees," with between 40 and 50 pages at the outset.

Including sales tax, Monday through Friday the *Examiner* will cost 25 cents at the newsstand, while a Sunday paper will go for 50 cents. There will be no edition on Saturdays, widely considered a "slow news day" with low readership.

Fang expects his competitors at the *Chronicle* will continue to cater to what he called "straight, white, suburban families" — a group Fang estimates to comprise about 25 percent of the population.

In contrast, he said, his *Examiner* will be geared to appeal to "everyone else."

"We're going to try to target diversity, as opposed to a single group," the publisher said. "The whole thing with the *Examiner* is we're representing the people of San Francisco. The diversity of the newsroom staff represents the diversity of San Francisco."

"My role is to set direction, to set policy," said Fang, who will also serve as his own editorial page editor, when asked whether there will be a "fire wall" between the business operations of the paper and its editorial staff. "News stories are news stories and endorsements are going to be made based

on who's best for San Francisco."

Fang said he will be making endorsements in the *Examiner* "in early December" for the city's supervisorial runoff election on December 12.

"There's never been a metropolitan newspaper that's been put out in four months," Fang told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "It's all been a challenge, but it's all been overcome. [The *Examiner*] is going to be a voice for everybody in San Francisco."

"We're trying to get this thing off the ground against tremendous odds," said Fang of his newspaper, which will be subsidized by the Hearst Corporation with \$66 million over its first three years. The subsidy was part of a court deal settling anti-trust concerns. "The whole thing about this town is debate and controversy [among] many different factions."

At least Fang won't have to worry about competition from another local newspaper, the free *Independent*. The Fang-family-owned Exln Corp. also publishes that thrice-weekly venture, in addition to the nationally circulated *AsianWeek*, and several free Peninsula newspapers.

Fang demurred when Hinckle, himself a study in colorful characters of old time San Francisco, suggested that the openly gay Asian American publisher "come out" on the front page of the new *Examiner*.

Fang said he's been "out" as an openly gay man since he was 22.

But what role, if any, will his sexual orientation play as publisher of the new *Examiner*?

"I think it's part of my life, and my life experiences," Fang said, "and how I look at San Francisco, and how we're going to cover this town." ▼

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BAY AREA REPORTER

District 5

◀ page 2

ly demonstrated herself as anti-tenant and anti-labor, a move that prompted many Democrats to support Gonzalez instead.

"It is a struggle for Democrats in the current context to stay in the party. I'm often embarrassed and ashamed of the party," said Haaland. "Going Green is not

about splitting progressives. It's about the fact that we progressives are a part of the Democratic Party that has been ignored."

Haaland said he is confident that District 5 residents will vote for their issues regardless of party affiliation.

Gonzalez, who wrote about his Green transformation in the *San Francisco Bay Guardian* last week, described his party move as one of honesty about his ideals. ▼

Our Man Friday

◀ page 9

Ralph Nader gets his front-row seat right next to the one occupied by Florida Secretary of State Katherine Harris.

Nader, meanwhile, was busy in Washington last week explaining why he and his Green Party failed so miserably in reaching his goal of capturing 5 percent of the national vote. Instead of admitting what nearly everyone else recognizes — that he and the Greens failed to achieve any success (other than to likely toss Florida to Bush) in this year's election — Nader whined that the Green Party got only about 3 percent because of the "cold feet factor," voters worried that voting Green would indeed deny Democratic nominee Al Gore the White House in the close contest with George W. Bush. Attempting to have it both ways, Nader tried to take credit for what he said would be the revival of the progressive wing of the Democratic Party. Nader crowed that "if Gore wins, the progressive wing of the Democratic Party is going to be more influential." If Bush wins? Nader shrugs. "So what?" When Nader was asked about the lingering bit-

terness of associates and onetime political allies who are angered that he continued to campaign hard at Gore's expense, Nader laughingly compared his treatment to the Amish tradition of "shunning" those who abandon the faith. A hell of a guy, this Ralph Nader.

Despite promises election after election that things "are getting better," the San Francisco Department of Elections again took more than a week to count the final votes; can't we send someone from that sorry department just a few miles south to San Mateo County to learn how this is supposed to be done?

And finally, we need to know this: whoever wins the presidency will face a hex that some trace to an Indian warrior's curse. Every president elected in a year ending in zero from 1840 to 1960 died in office. Ronald Reagan, elected in 1980, broke the bad luck streak, although he was wounded by a would-be assassin's bullet. The legend began with President William Henry Harrison, who had crossed Shawnee Indian chief Tecumseh or his brother The Prophet. Harrison died of pneumonia caught during the inauguration.

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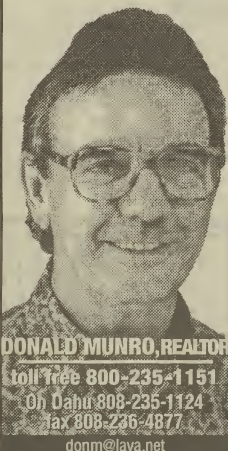
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CLASSIFIEDS

LEGAL
NOTICESSTATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT
OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME. FILE NO: 241173

The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Profit Recovery Partners. Located at: 961 Lombard Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94133. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: 6/02/2000. This business was conducted by: a individual: Michael S. Gargan.

NOVEMBER 9, 16, 23, 30, 2000

STATEMENT FILE NO. 244336

The following person(s) are doing business as: Phantom. 516 Castro Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Allam N. Bitak. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/20/00.

NOV 9, 16, 23, 30, 2000

STATEMENT FILE NO. 244649

The following person(s) are doing business as: Vico's Imports. 1598 Carroll Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94124. This business is conducted by an individual signed Vico Piccinini. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 11/03/00. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/20/00.

NOV 9, 16, 23, 30, 2000

STATEMENT FILE NO. 244690

The following person(s) are doing business as: Orient Rugs And Carpets Of The East. 33 Pond Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Gregory Scott Halbert. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 11/06/00.

NOV. 16, 23, 30, DEC. 7, 2000

STATEMENT FILE NO. 244060

The following person(s) are doing business as: Patterson and McCombs. 12 Geary Street, suite 201-z, San Francisco, Ca. 94108. This business is conducted by an individual signed Nancy McCombs. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 10/01/00. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/10/00.

NOV. 16, 23, 30, DEC. 7, 2000

STATEMENT FILE NO. 244770

The following person(s) are doing business as: Impact Multimedia Publishing. 860 Bush Street #301, San Francisco, Ca. 94108. This business is conducted by an individual signed Wilfred J. Ortiz, II. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 11/01/00. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 11/09/00.

NOV. 16, 23, 30, DEC. 7, 2000

STATEMENT FILE NO. 244110

The following person(s) are doing business as: Mack. 1285 Folsom Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Kenneth E. Neal. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/11/00.

NOV. 23, 30, DEC. 7, 14, 2000

STATEMENT FILE NO. 244845

The following person(s) are doing business as: Integument Rejuvenation Center. 2326 Fillmore Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94115. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Sanford Schnoll. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 11/13/00. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 11/13/00.

NOV. 23, 30, DEC. 7, 14, 2000

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT
OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME. FILE NO: 0226018-00

The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Mack. Located at: 315-319 10th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: 10/05/00. This business was conducted by: a individual: Daralt.

NOV. 23, 30, DEC. 7, 14, 2000

STATEMENT FILE NO. 316038

In The Superior Court Of The State Of California In And For The County Of San Francisco. In the matter of the Application of Greg Allen Rosscup. For Change of Name. The application of Greg Allen Rosscup, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application proposing that his name be changed to Garrett Ross. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons before this Court in Department 218 on the 7th day of December 2000, at 9:00 o'clock AM, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

OCT. 26, NOV. 2, 9, 16, 2000

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E01

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E48

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E47

A DIFFERENT LIGHT

Booksellers wanted for work in an exciting queer independent bookstore. Drop resume to: 489 Castro, or call: 431-0891.

E47

PEER ADVOCATE

Assist people living with HIV/AIDS access medical & treatment services; provide direct practical & emotional support. Basic comp. skills; strong written/verbal skills; pref. bilingual English/Spanish. Resume to Shanti, HR, 730 Polk St. SF, Ca. 94109. EOE

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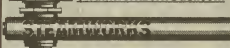
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RECEPTIONIST - Top law firm in downtown SF looking for exp. switchboard Receptionist. Salary - 35K. Fax resume and cover letter to 415-362-7813.

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Sex can be the best thing on the planet. It drives us. It's like magic. And when it clicks, it's... well, a lot more than just sex.

It's at the core of things here. There's an attitude about sex here that's like no place else on earth. It's a way of life. It's a sexy city. Sex is part of what makes San Francisco so great. We love sex here, so naturally we get good at what we love best.

Is he fuckworthy? Is he husband material? Nice smile. Great body. We get good at all that. We're experts at sizing other guys up. A lot of times, HIV goes without saying. Probably more than it should. But everybody thinks they can tell everybody else's status these days. Or so it seems.

The whole thing takes some work, it takes some practice. It's an art, it's a science, and if you're out there at all, you know what it's like.

Sometimes good connections can be hard to find. Occasionally some X or crystal seems to help. We can go up to guys we normally wouldn't. It makes us feel like the walls have come down. But those are just temporary fixes. After a few hours, nothing's really changed.

Sex can get routine, too, and sometimes all we want is



somebody going through the same shit. Sometimes it's impossible to find that thing called "community" that's supposed to exist here like it could never have back in our hometowns. And when you throw in outrageous rents, competition for guys, and looking to connect — sexually and emotionally — the whole thing starts to add up. It shuts some of us down. It hurts some of. It makes some of us hard, and not in the right places.

But that's sex in the city. It's better here than anywhere. And it's probably harder than any outsider can know.

And what about you? What keeps you in San Francisco? Is sex a part of it? And if it is, how often is sex a hassle or a drag or something to genuinely worry about? What would it take to REALLY change things? **How can we make being gay in San Francisco better?**

A few weeks ago we started talking about what's really going on in our lives. We've looked at some new studies, and we've also tried to put a name to the things that keep some of us from feeling good and staying healthy. From the responses at gaylife@sfaf.org and from your phone calls, it seems like a lot of this resonates with you.

Let us know how you would like to keep the conversation going. We can do a community forum. We can come to the groups you belong to. We can keep doing ads like this. Maybe you've got better ideas. Email us at gaylife@sfaf.org or call us at 415-788-LIFE.

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Motion picture sadism
New 'Quills' takes on
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

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Wonder Woman to the rescue

The superhero in Phil Jimenez's life

by Jay Blotcher

The plotline is pure fantasy: Gayboy teen from the projects keeps the hardships of everyday life at arm's length by retreating into the comic book world of his favorite superhero, Wonder Woman. No slouch with a drawing pencil, he comes to New York to work on comic books, meets his mentor-lover, and ends up as writer-illustrator of his beloved heroine.

This improbable tale would scare off the best of comic book writers. But occasionally the gods smile on mortals and set into a motion such a fable. Welcome to the life of Phil Jimenez.

Telling his tale of outrageous fortune, Jimenez acknowledges its high-treacle quotient. But at 29, sitting in the catbird seat of the comic book world, Jimenez is anything but cavalier. He'll stop recounting his story to give a superstitious good-luck rap to the hardwood floor of his 15th-story apartment/artist studio on Manhattan's Upper West Side.

It can be argued that comic books are the refuge of the emotionally-stunted, fanatics who live for their weekend conventions. For Jimenez, comic books led to self-actualization. An only child raised by a single mother in conservative Orange County, Jimenez displayed self-sufficiency early in his goal to escape, a quest fueled by a growing awareness of his sexuality. "I remember always feeling off-kilter in Los Angeles; there was an omnipresent feeling of not belonging," he says.

Jimenez bided his time. An A student, he was active in school groups, but comic books were his true education. His imagination was sparked by *Wonder Woman*, a comic book about a defiant Amazon from a female utopia called Paradise Island. The character had been created in 1941 by a media-savvy pop psychologist named William Moulton Marston, who wrote under the pseudonym Charles Moulton.

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Learning from Matthew Shepard

by David Lamble

Once upon a time, there lived a charming little boy-man who went to college in a small town that lies along the vast highway that connects San Francisco to New York. Laramie, Wyoming is a town filled with cowboy bars but no cowboys. Later, after the tragedy, people would wonder how the boy-man, who spoke several languages and looked like he was barely 13, could have found himself drinking with guys who normally spent their days pounding nails. The boy-man stumbled onto something that night, in that bar, with those carpenters: the secret of how one becomes famous in America. The price of the secret, sadly, if not surprisingly, was death.

"On the night of October 6, 1998, Matt Shepard, a 21-year-old gay University of Wyoming student, stopped in at the Fire-side Bar in downtown Laramie for a drink.

A day later, in the early evening of Wednesday, October 7, a mountain biker found Matt lashed to a fence on the outskirts of town, beaten, pistol-whipped, unconscious, and barely breathing. Matt never regained consciousness, and he died five days later, in the early hours of Monday, October 12. His killers — Aaron McKinney and Russell Henderson, Laramie men in their early 20s like Matt — were already in custody."

In 100 words, Beth Loffreda, a heterosexual member of the University of Wyoming English Department, and faculty advisor to the school's Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgendered Association (LGBTGA), describes what is known about the crime that made a diminutive college freshman a national poster boy for gay-bashing. *Losing Matt Shepard: Life and Pol-*

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The fence in Laramie, Wyoming where Matthew Shepard was found beaten.



Readers: Gary Calvary / Lucive Photos

SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS

by Roberto Friedman
and Hanging Chad

Having Republican Florida Secretary of State/dragon lady **Katherine Harris** certify the presidential election is like having secret taper **Linda Tripp** in charge of your cosmetic makeover.

But we all have our problems. In **Jason Gould's** short film *Inside Out*, part of the *Boys Life 3* program opening at the Castro Theatre on December 15, a young man in LA deals with the trauma of being the son of two celebrities. The fact that writer, director and actor Gould is in fact the son of superstar **Barbra Streisand** and film star **Elliot Gould** obviously enters into the equation. But when *Out There* met with Gould in a SoMa café one sunny afternoon last week, he told us *Inside Out*

was not mere autobiography.

"When I see the film, it's not me. It's based on my experience, but it's not me." In person, the handsome son of famous parents is friendly, low-key, somewhat soft-spoken, you could even say shy.

Gould père has a small part in the 27-minute film, playing the fictional Aaron's celeb father. Jason says having his father play his father in the film "made it more authentic."

What was it like directing Elliot Gould?

"I love working with my Dad — he'll do whatever I want. He's been in other short films I've done."

Did you ask your mother to be in the film, too?

"There wasn't a part for her." Could convincingly argued that a film with Barbra Streisand in a supporting role would become a



Father and son: Elliot and Jason Gould in *Inside Out*

film about her. *Out There* saw his point.

Inside Out's plot is set in motion by a supermarket tabloid which blares on its front cover: "Superstar's son marries male model!" Gould said the film was inspired by his real-life experience, when he was "outed" in the tabloid press with a contrived story about his... well, about his marrying a male model. The whole sensation boiled over when Streisand's '92 *Prince of Tides* was filming, a movie in which the young Jason had a small role.

Gould is over it by now. "It was such a crazy story, but you can't sue them, even if it's untrue, because it's pretty hard to prove malicious intent."

Originally, another actor was to play *Inside Out's* protagonist; Gould eventually wound up directing himself in the role. "People have trouble with what's real and what's not," he said. "I think it's more provocative that way. It has more substance if I play the part."

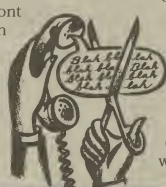
OT made a small joke about Gould's never having to worry about Barbra Streisand taking his calls. He smiled politely.

What was it like to come out to your mother?

"She pretty much knew," he said. "I think mothers know about their sons, or their daughters."

Some are in denial, I guess."

Is your mother a typical Jewish mother? *Out There* asked, thinking perhaps of our own.



Out There

"I wouldn't say there's anything typical about her!"

Gould said, admitting when pressed that perhaps she does have some of those qualities we associate with the stereotypical Jewish matriarch. "But she has a lot of other qualities, too!"

Barbra Streisand is supportive of her son's choice of career; he has always been around films, after all, since both of his folks were always making them. "I made my first movie when I was 8," he said. "I was one of those kids with an 8mm camera."

Gould made *Inside Out* in 1996; it was an official selection in the Sundance Film Festival in 1998, and played the SF International Lesbian & Gay Film Fest the same year. Now it will play the Castro in a collection of shorts about gay life from Strand Releasing.

"Our culture is so interested in celebrity lives — this is a different perspective on it; the inside-out view." Spoken like a true insider.

Wild life

Exciting developments keep the SF theatre scene alive. Over at Theatre Rhino, the *Naked Boys Singing* run keeps getting longer — the boys celebrate their 100th performance after Thanksgiving. Porn star **Mark Everett** has been added to the cast for select performances. Heretofore most famous for getting big things put up his furry rump, Everett reveals hitherto unknown musical comedy skills. He knocked 'em dead in his audition, when he essayed a number from *Pirates of Penzance*, strutting around the stage like the excitable **Kevin Kline** in the alto-gether. *Naked Boys* is extended



Porn star Mark Everett

through Dec. 3. Box office: 433-9507.

Celeb spottings, we got celeb spottings: At the buoyant opening of *Mamma Mia* at the Orpheum, we saw 3/4 of the '70s superpop quartet **ABBA**, looking Swedish and glamorous, take the stage during curtain calls; earlier, at intermission, we'd scoped out *Will & Grace's* humpy lead **Eric McCormack**, toothsome and quite dashing in a chic suede jacket, but still not gay. McCormack has a close friend in the cast, which, like him, is — gasp! — Canadian.

OT was also lucky enough to be in the audience for the last dress rehearsal of *The Late Henry Moss*, thanks to the Theatre in the Square crew, so we saw playwright **Sam Shepard** himself lurking in the back of the house. Word is that he lopped 20 minutes off the 3-act over the course of rehearsals; having endured it, we'd say he could lop off much of the rest.

Our spy at the *Henry Moss* cast party didn't witness any embarrassing drunken behavior by any of the stellar cast. But we know at least one player has been enjoying the kind of smoke that self-medicates: our friend the herbal connoisseur calls this particular varietal "Brain Eraser." Last time the **Famous Actor** was this high, he almost fell off the Golden Gate Bridge.



Lily Tomlin in *Intelligent Life*

Press watch

We were disappointed to see no mention of actress **Lily Tomlin's** womyn-centered lifestyle in the profile of her which ran in the *NY Times Arts & Leisure* section. Tomlin is performing in a revival of her one-woman *The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe* which opened last week at the Booth Theater on Broadway. The show was written by Tomlin's "longtime friend and artistic collaborator" **Jane Wagner**, who is given a thorough tush-kissing in a sidebar profile written by *New Yorker* staff bloviator **Hilton Als**. Als puffs on and on about Wagner despite admitting that his memories and insights about her are based on meeting her and Tomlin a "first and only time almost two years ago in Los Angeles, when I was reporting a piece about their friend **Richard Pryor**."

In too many column inches with too little to tell, Als manages nonetheless to blow smoke up his own posterior, waxing nostalgically on his sleepy memories of that cozy chat in a Cuban restaurant two full years ago.

But why dwell on the charisma-impaired? We found our amusements in the *Times'* business section, in an article about hijinks on Wall Street, where we found a circumspect mention of the recent "embarrassment at Morgan Stanley Dean Witter over photographs of a young analyst posing nude in a magazine for gay men." That's what OT calls trade on the margins! — and check, that's analyst, not analyst. ▼

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THEATRE

Conflicting agendas

'Debunking Love' at New Conservatory

by Richard Dodds

Debunking Love is a park-bench play. Two characters sit on the bench and discuss life. Sometimes they sit on a sofa and discuss love. There is a lot of discussion in Prince Gomolvilas' new play, which is almost a series of debates, and if the results ultimately feel rigged, at least the topics are often fresh.

After all, how many plays have addressed head on the attraction that Asians hold for some white men? It's a gay thing, one of the characters points out. In the straight world, he says, white women searching for Asian dick is as rare as a sighting of Haley's Comet. And it turns out that the central character, who is Asian, himself prefers white men, which he claims is no more charged than saying his favorite color is green.

Of course, Adam will need to come to terms with his self-propelling prejudice, and a discussion that seriously delves into that subject would be welcome. But Gomolvilas lets his character off the hook by having a white beau turn suddenly and unbelievably into a cultural Neanderthal, making too simple Adam's choice to look for his soulmate in a fellow Asian, who, too conveniently, turns out not to be what he seems.

Ultimately, though, the Asian-Caucasian debate begins to seem more like a detour than the main road that the playwright is exploring. Gomolvilas, through Adam, wants to convince us (and perhaps himself) that such a thing as true love does exist. The case is made intellectually in director Arturo Catricala's no-frills production, and the play ends with two of the characters finding that they have at least a glimmer of faith in the prospect.

Gomolvilas leavens his debates with considerable humor, mostly emanating from our self-deprecating, high-strung hero. Adam is a best-selling author of mystery novels that are pointedly non-ethnic, even to the point that his photo doesn't appear on the books' jackets. He is given an appealing dizzy-queen performance by Alfredo Victorio, but one that doesn't quite jibe with the character's credentials.

Representing Adam's cross-cultural conflicts are the play's two other characters. Buddy (an effectively intense Robert Wu) is an aggressively straight friend from high school on whom Adam has a secret crush. As an Asian-rights militant, Buddy wants Adam to use his prestige for the cause. Tony (played with a good-natured sexiness by Steve Garland) has met

Adam through the personals in the BAR, and is an unapologetic rice queen who wants to sign up Adam for his gay-rights agenda.

Both Buddy and Tony fall victim to hate crimes in a contrived turn of the plot that too easily exploits this hot-button issue. It's representative of the compromising short cuts Gomolvilas is willing to take to land his points.

The young San Francisco playwright is a rising theatrical figure both locally and nationally. *Debunking Love* is strong evidence of the artist as a work in progress. ▽

Debunking Love will run at the New Conservatory Theatre Center through Jan. 6. Tickets are \$15-\$25. Call 861-8972.



Mary Ellen Mahoney, Louise Pitre, Gabrielle Jones in *Mamma Mia!*

ABBAlicious

Musical 'Mamma Mia!'

by Richard Dodds

During a recent interview, Björn Ulvaeus, one of the founding members of ABBA, couldn't explain why a London critic had described *Mamma Mia!* as "gay friendly." Maybe he was being coy, but after an encounter with the touring musical at the Orpheum Theatre, the mystery is moot.

Yes, this musical story built around 22 songs by the Swedish supergroup is all about heterosexual relationships, but it is the hunky chorus boys who are doffing their clothes at every chance. This gratuitous male pulchritude (the women are much more demure) tacitly acknowledges that ABBA's fan base was largely made up of gay boys and straight girls.

Where does that leave heterosexual male theatergoers? Out on a limb, I'm afraid, unless they arrive with both a knowledge of and a visceral appreciation for the songs of ABBA. The London-born, Broadway-bound musical itself is something of a running joke, with the humor generated by the obvious machinations of Catherine Johnson's script to set up situations where songs like "Chiquitita" and "Money, Money, Money" can make sense.

Director Phyllida Lloyd's staging also knows it's best not to take anything too seriously. Heads pop up from behind the scenery to provide the requisite ABBA harmonies even during solos, characters may feign pained expressions when the dialogue takes a detour toward a song, and the dancers cavort in Speedos and flip-flops. The results of all this is a pleasant froth by the intermission, and exuberant froth by the final curtain.

The story itself is a genial tale, although it may remind some theatergoers of the 1968 Gina Lollobrigida movie *Buona Sera, Mrs. Campbell*. On a small Greek island, where ex-hippie Donna runs a

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Steve Garland in *Debunking Love* at the New Conservatory Theatre

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Dead on arrival

Magic Theatre's 'The Late Henry Moss'

by Richard Dodds

My favorite line heard at Sam Shepard's *The Late Henry Moss* came not from the stage, but from former governor and current Oakland mayor Jerry Brown as he scowled his way to the lobby during the second intermission. "I'll go finish my drink," the dour politician said to a companion. "That changed everything. That transformed everything."

I'm not sure further libations would work the same transformative magic on the third act of this high-profile production, which runs out of steam 20 minutes before the curtain comes down. Until that point, thanks in no small part to the star power on stage, Shepard's new play should hold your interest even if it doesn't pull together into a solid theatrical experience.

The Late Henry Moss has returned a national spotlight to the Magic Theatre, which served in the 1970s and '80s as an incubator for such Shepard breakthrough plays as *Buried Child* and *True West*. But even as *The Late Henry Moss* recycles elements of the themes and plots of Shepard's earlier works, their prickly energies and structural discipline are often missing.

Not that any of this will matter at the box office. The run at Theatre on the Square through Dec. 17, with the exception of a few daily rush tickets, has been sold out for weeks. This has more to do with Nick Nolte, Sean Penn, Woody Harrelson, and Cheech Marin than Shepard, but then again, it was Shepard as playwright and director who was able to get these big names to work for scale.

In acting terms, Nolte, Harrelson, and Marin show that they know how to translate their screen skills to the stage, though Penn's tightly wound energies seem to unravel away from the camera.

Nolte, while reworking some of his Nick shtick from *Affliction*, fills the stage with his swaggering, rough-hewn presence as the older brother in a grimly dysfunctional family. With his careworn face and



Woody Harrelson and James Gammon in *The Late Henry Moss*

a sandpaper voice that confirms his character's penchant for booze and cigarettes, Nolte's Earl Moss looks like he really could be the offspring of Henry Moss, the hopelessly alcoholic father played with high-volume intensity by James Gammon.

Psycho scion

Penn's Ray Moss, on the other hand, might wonder if he was adopted, so unlikely a scion is he to the decrepit patriarch. Penn also seems less clear on what to do with this character, and his energies are flat in the early scenes and confused in the later ones. But to Penn's credit, he has been given a character of undefined motivations that can verge on edges of psychopathy.

Both Ray and Earl have arrived at their father's adobe shack in rural New Mexico following the death of their long-estranged father. At least that is what we are led to believe, and Penn's Ray has his suspicions about the old man's demise, spurred by his unresolved resentments over his older brother's retiring role in the family's earlier strife. He decides to play detective.

First he interviews the sweet-natured neighbor played by

Cheech Marin who had befriended the irascible old man. It is a role that gives Marin a chance to display acting skills unrevealed by his role on *Nash Bridges*. Next, the doubting Ray lures back the taxi driver who had given his father a ride on his last day. This man-child cabbie is played with appealing agility and comic savvy by Woody Harrelson. Sheila Tousey completes the cast as an iconographic woman who is part mother, part whore.

The Late Henry Moss takes its sweet time to unravel its mystery, which turns out not to be much of a mystery at all. It's really a forum for Shepard to explore his well-traveled themes about the spiritual cancer that families can inflict on themselves. He has done it much better in the past, but he'll probably never get to do it again with such an illustrious cast. ▼

The Late Henry Moss will run at Theatre on the Square through Dec. 17. The run is sold out, except for a small number of tickets sold by lottery at 11 a.m. Tuesdays-Saturdays at the Tix Booth in Union Square. For more information, go to www.magictheatre.org.

Miseries of monogamy

'Dinner with Friends' at Berkeley Rep

by Richard Dodds

Dinner with Friends is a dramatic representation of all those sorry/grateful views of marriage that Stephen Sondheim used to write about. In Donald Margulies' off-Broadway hit, now at Berkeley Rep, the miseries that come with making a life together can only be sanely borne with the company of others who are also suppressing the urge to flee.

Unraveling marriages are popular dramatic fodder, but *Dinner with Friends* comes at the subject from an intriguingly different angle. The victims here are the contentedly married couple thrown asunder by the announcement that their best friends are breaking up. These friends were part of a support system that found virtue in the sacrifices

made to the demands of parenthood, the evaporating sexual excitement of fidelity, and the banality that becomes the ritual paste holding it all together.

That banality is the deceptive centerpiece of Margulies' play, as he sets up a lifestyle of small pleasures that can no longer sustain at least one of the couples. After the curtain is ripped back, the sad and angry truths revealed by both couples puncture this comforting banality.

This is a play of talk, and even as the characters' emotional heat rises, it doesn't pull the audience viscerally into the proceedings. It remains more of an intellectual exploration, albeit one constructed with polish and intellect.

The crispness and spot-on casting of the New York production have not been fully duplicated at Berkeley Rep, where director

Richard Seyd and an uneven cast soften the edges of this tidy work. Of the quartet of actors, only Lorri Holt as the divorcing wife builds interestingly on the outlines provided by the playwright, while Bill Geisslinger, Dan Hiatt, and Lauren Lane manage little more than acceptability.

Dinner with Friends is not without humor, but it always has an edge. When a member of the surviving couple laments that their extended family is unraveling, she gets a sharp retort from her divorcing counterpart. "Congratulations," she is told. "Your chosen family is just as fucked up as the one you were born with." ▼

Dinner with Friends will run at Berkeley Rep through Jan. 5. Tickets are \$40.50-\$51. Call (510) 647-2949.

Sex and the single churl

The Marquis de Sade's 'Quills'

by Robert Julian

In post-revolutionary France, the executioner forces a woman's head onto the guillotine. She first stares into a basket full of freshly severed heads, then glances up at the blade. A drop of fresh blood falls from the sharp edge above and lands on her cheek. The blade falls, the screen turns scarlet, and *Quills* sets off on its course of stylized debauchery. After all, one would hardly expect the story of the Marquis de Sade's final days to play like a delicate remembrance of things past — he wasn't that kind of writer.

Director Philip Kaufman allows Doug Wright to adapt his own play for the screen, and the

collaboration results in a film that, for all its exquisite details, is less satisfying than it could have been. *Quills* begins with the pampered and privileged Marquis de Sade (Geoffrey Rush) committed to the Charenton insane asylum, which is run by the benevolent priest Coulmier (Joaquin Phoenix). The laundress Madeleine (Kate Winslet) is actively engaged in smuggling de Sade's writings to his publisher. But when the controversial publications come to the attention of Napoleon, he sends an evil prison administrator, Royer-Collard (Michael Caine), to "help" the priest run Charenton. Royer-Collard's arrival upsets the delicate balance of an asylum practically run by the inmates, and propels the story to-

ward its disastrous conclusion.

Wright plays fast and loose with the actual facts of the Marquis de Sade's life. And in his decision to rob de Sade of an actual sex life, he does his subject a disservice. In *Quills*, de Sade is only obsessed with writing about sex, he doesn't have sex himself. This ridiculous lie, the central conceit of the story, is just one of many miscalculations in the script which torpedoed this film.

Madeleine has an unrequited love for the priest, and also de Sade. The priest represses his physical desire for Madeleine, and de Sade constantly torments him over the conflict between his desires and his beliefs. As co-administrators of the asylum, the priest is further conflicted by his contentious relationship with Royer-Collard, a closet masochist whose sexual double standard fuels a ferocious hatred of de Sade. Meanwhile, back at the chateau, Royer-Collard's young wife is surreptitiously reading de Sade's publications and boffing her husband's architect. In an undeveloped subplot, de Sade's wife is shown encouraging her husband's persecution. And the inmates of the asylum are loony misfits who primarily serve as the pawns of the film's main characters.

Identity crisis

In the production notes, the film is billed as a "black comedy thriller," and it is precisely this lack of focus that denies *Quills* the



Kate Winslet and Geoffrey Rush in Philip Kaufman's *Quills*

emotional impact its stunning production values deserve. The film is not only unable to decide what it wants to be, but the writer and director refuse to make any moral judgments. This results in an all-too-familiar form of cinematic schizophrenia. The characters are at cross purposes throughout, and a plethora of subplots and interpersonal psychodramas dissipate the film's energy. Faced with a running time of over two hours, the viewer ends up disengaged, unenlightened, and just plain tired by the time the credits roll.

Martin Child's spectacular production design and Jacqueline West's costumes make for a sumptuous visual feast. And the talented ensemble cast turns in effective performances. Winslet, fresh of face and heaving of breast, adds

intelligence to her character to create a believable object of desire. Michael Caine reins himself in as an effective foil to Geoffrey Rush's frantic de Sade, and Joaquin Phoenix is appropriately conflicted in the less showy role of the priest.

Quills recalls both Ken Russell's *The Devils* and Stephen Frears' *Dangerous Liaisons*. But director Philip Kaufman brings the same fuzzy thematic focus to this work that he brought to his other elegant failures, *The Unbearable Lightness of Being* and *Henry and June*. Despite the best efforts of the cast, *Quills* remains a film whose pretensions are greater than its accomplishments. ▼

Quills opens today at the Embarcadero Center Cinemas.

The celluloid turkey-baster

Filmmaker Gurinder Chadha on 'What's Cooking?'

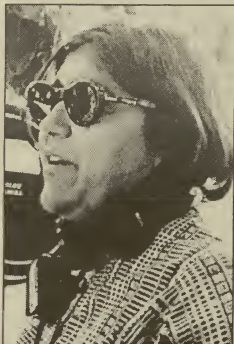
by Bradley David

Now playing in theaters across the country is a unique film with a Thanksgiving theme and a lesbian subplot featuring lovers played by Kyra Sedgwick and Julianna Margulies. And what's a Thanksgiving lesbian flick without a good turkey-baster gag? In one memorable scene, Rachel and Carla (Sedgwick and Margulies) are shown moistening the holiday bird, foreshadowing the surprising news they'll later announce to Rachel's rather homo-ignorant Jewish family.

The film is called *What's Cooking?* and, believe it or not, the woman who wrote and directed it is not a lesbian. Gurinder Chadha, a British filmmaker who was born in Kenya to a family of Indian descent, wrote the film's screenplay in collaboration with her American husband, Paul Mayeda Berges. In a recent phone interview from her home in London, Chadha explained her qualifications for creating such realistic lesbian characters.

"I have a godson here [in London] called Hamish, whose mother is a lesbian, and he was fathered by her partner's brother," says Chadha. "Hamish and his mother Sally are considered very much to be a part of my family, and us their family. And Hamish has a sister, who was conceived by Sally's partner Amanda with a donor. In addition to that, my best friends here in London are a gay [male] couple. So what my film is about is very much the way families come together in different ways. We are very much part of each of our own families, but also we have created a new family with our gay and lesbian friends."

With an impressive cast also featuring Alfred Woodard, Joan Chen, Mercedes Ruehl, Lainie Kazan and Estelle Harris, *What's Cooking?* tells the stories of four different Los Angeles families —



Director Gurinder Chadha

one African-American, one Jewish, one Hispanic, and one Vietnamese — observing Thanksgiving in the year 2000. Chadha had never celebrated the American holiday until she met her husband in 1994.

"It was just great to see so many people, all being invited to the home and all sharing and enjoying this great big feast," she says. "We in Britain see America as such a materialist country in many ways that it was nice to experience and share in something that was not really about materialism, but much more about friendship and kindness and coming together."

Beach encounter

Chadha was promoting her critically-acclaimed first film, *Bhaji on the Beach*, when she met her husband six years ago.

"He was then running the Asian-American Film Festival in San Francisco, and he programmed my film as the opening night film at his festival," she says. "We met there, and it was all very much in the stars."

Since then, she has spent a number of Thanksgivings in Los Angeles, where the couple spends about half of their time.

page 48 ►

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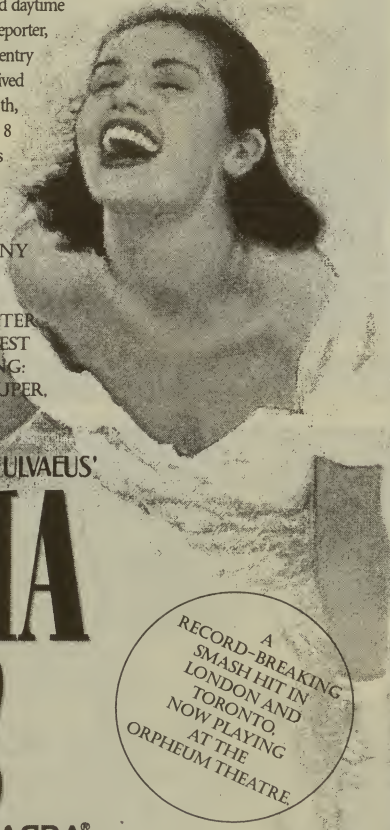
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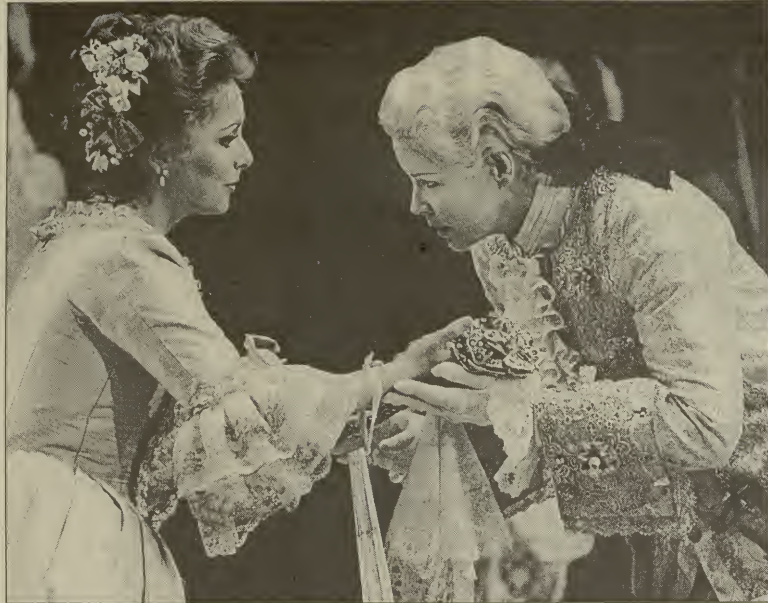
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Rebecca Evans as Sophie and Susan Graham as Octavian in San Francisco Opera's *Der Rosenkavalier*

Orgasms among ormolu

SF Opera's randy 'Der Rosenkavalier'

by Stephanie von Buchau

Hugo von Hofmannsthal's *Der Rosenkavalier* is about self-knowledge, autumnal regret and the self-sacrifice that is the ultimate love. Yet the music is by Richard Strauss, so the opera starts with sex.

Last Friday at the War Memorial Opera House, the San Francisco Opera's *Der Rosenkavalier* not only started with sex, it kept on about sex and, in the final trio, what mattered most was not the Marschallin's moving benediction to her lost young lover, but the marvelously tart, sex-wise line: "He'll be happy with her [meaning Sophie], as men know how to be happy."

I've always thought this was one of the great put-downs in opera. Yes, the lady is hurting, but she's not wallowing in it. She knows perfectly well that when Octavian spots another pretty girl, he'll do just as his disreputable cousin Baron Ochs does, and chase her around the ormolu side tables.

This boisterous, vulgar take on what is often seen as an elegiac piece is promoted by stage directors Lotfi Mansouri and Elisabeth

Söderström and, surprisingly, by conductor Sir Charles Mackerras. Celebrating his 75th birthday, Sir Charles gave no indication of the shoulder problem that has him in some pain. His prelude was vigorously randy, with Octavian's whooping horns signaling a premature ejaculation before the Marschallin gets her own pleasure in a more restrained but satisfying manner. And his final trio built to a powerful musical climax.

The eponymous Octavian, bearer of the symbolic silver rose (i.e. "The Rose Cavalier") signaling the betrothal of Baron Ochs to wealthy, middle-class Sophie von Faninal, is sung by Susan Graham, an artist I find more puzzling each time I hear her.

No slender aristocrat like Frederica von Stade or Angelika Kirchschlager (the best Octavian I've ever heard), Graham is tall and beefy, like a teenage linebacker. She swaggers convincingly as a boy, and seems like a nice person, so you root for her. But the fluttering hormonal ecstasy that should define Octavian — the reason Strauss cast the lad as a mezzo soprano in the first place — eludes this rich-voiced, placid artist.

On the other hand, Graham is a fine musician and sings resolutely in tune. So does Rebecca Evans, the last-minute substitute for Sophie. Once she got past her solo nerves, she and Graham blended beautifully, and, since Yvonne Kenny's Marschallin also has rock-steady pitch, the final trio neared the sublime.

Kenny's soprano is on the dry, smallish side for a house as big as the War Memorial, but I wouldn't have wanted to miss her detailed domestic charms just because she doesn't possess the refulgent sound of Renée Fleming (a much less specific actress than Kenny), who essays the role starting December 2.

Horny Ochs

Whenever the performance threatened to get slow, sloppy or lose musical focus from all that bumptious stage business, something or somebody snapped it back. Franz Hawlata's Ochs was younger,

hornier, more dangerous and better sung (in Act I) than the usual old fat guy, but he too succumbed to the hectic direction of Acts II and III, yowling and shouting until the moment when he realizes that he has been defeated by the Marschallin's implacable will and must give up the delectable Sophie.

The interplay in this scene was as clear and as clearly heartbreaking as I've ever seen it, but whom does one credit? The singers? Söderström? Mansouri? Or Mackerras, still pumping out the passion at the end of four long hours? I've never noticed before how dominant the tympani are at the end of the trio, though it may have been only a result of my unfavorable seat location, just at the edge of the box tier overhang, which also made the strings turn hard and glassy.

The production is still that pretty, inconsequential revamping by Thierry Bosquet of the original 1911 Alfred Roller designs. Its wan charms are negated by hideous costume choices, some of which I fear belong to the singers or were chosen by the proverbial blind dresser. If ever hags were in need of fags for dress advice, it was Kenny's dowdy Marschallin, Octavian's retainers (couldn't they be all the same height, and must they wear that hospital-ward green?) and poor Sophie, matronly in pinky-cream dresses.

The large cast featured the usual grotesque Annina (Judith Christin) and Valzacchi (Ragnar Ulfung), a powerfully nasty Faninal (Peter Sidhom) and a ghastly Italian singer, Carlo Scibelli, the guy who was fired from *Rigoletto* a few years ago (and now we know why). "Di rigori armato" is satirical, but it is also beautiful and should be sung with melting tone and exquisite phrasing, not chopped and hacked to pieces so that one can hardly wait for Ochs to shout "als Morgengabe!" and cut him off. ▼

Der Rosenkavalier plays in repertory through December 10 at the War Memorial Opera House. For tickets, call (415) 864-3330.

CABARET

Last call in Texas

Janey Hall sings her way to San Francisco

by Jason Serinus

Janey Hall, a large-bodied lesbian gifted with a luscious, limpid voice that teases, caresses, and wraps itself around notes the way those in love tend to wrap around each other, is about to bring her unique soprano and sparkling presence to San Francisco's Piaf's on Thanksgiving, Nov. 23. Hall is flying in from Dallas, where she is known as a longtime singer in the Women's Chorus of Dallas, frequent soloist, and indispensable member of 2 x 2, a jazz quartet that she describes as sounding like Manhattan Transfer with a wider repertoire.

Hall has wanted to be a singer and performer since third grade. She has spent the last 18 years teaching choral singing to children and adults. Her skills had her chosen to lead both the Alto and Soprano Clinics at the July GALA Association of Gay and Lesbian Choruses Festival in San Jose.

This past May, Hall took a break from teaching to concentrate on singing from her just-released first CD, *Last Call*. Containing 11 torch songs from decades past, the disc showcases Hall's sweetly seductive, calculatedly kittenish voice. To fine arrangements by Anne Albritton, *Last Call* features such standards as "One for my Baby [and One More for the Road]," "Love for Sale," "I've Got a Crush on You," "They Can't Take That Away from Me," "Skylark," "My Romance," and that great Peggy Lee classic, "Fever." While Hall arranges for national distribution, the disc is available from www.janeyhall.com.

"Singing full-time is what I've always really wanted to do with my life," Hall explained in a recent phone interview. "If it doesn't work out, I can always go back to teaching. Just a few years ago, my choir at Richardson Junior High was top choir in the state of Texas. It's been really good for my former students to see me do what I love. We miss each other, but this is what I have to do now."

Reaching out beyond Texas is a necessity for the singer. While there are a couple of good cabaret performance venues in Dallas, she confesses that "the cigarette smoke drives me crazy. All the places where I can sing are in the bar areas, where everyone smokes. I love singing in San Francisco because of the no-smoking ordinance. It will be a joy to return to Piaf's on Thanksgiving."

Down the hood

In addition to cabaret, Hall has sung with the Dallas Opera and Houston Grand Opera, and has played such parts as Amahl's mother, Butterfly, and Susannah. She once sang Katisha from *The Mikado* in a production set in the '60s, making her entrance by sliding down the hood of a convertible while sporting big foot-and-a-half-tall hair and oversized sunglasses. "Given my size," she confesses with her characteristically riotous laugh, "it was hysterical."

While Hall will sing the soprano solo in Saint-Saens' *La Nuit* next January with the Garland and Las Colinas Symphonies, classical music is not where she wishes to focus. "With ballads," she explains, "there is more room for interpretation. When I feel something different from the norm in



Cabaret singer Janey Hall comes to Piaf's.

opera, it is not as easily accepted as in cabaret-style music. I'm a free spirit, and I don't have to color inside the lines with cabaret. In opera, I always felt like I had to color inside the lines, and that just goes against my grain."

Janey also performs as a soloist with lesbian and gay choruses, and has forthcoming gigs with the Houston Gay Men's Chorus, Reveille Gay Men's Chorus of Tucson, Rainbow Chorus of Ft. Collins, Sing Out! from Toronto, and the Women's Chorus of Indianapolis. Sometimes she offers them cabaret, sometimes classical, and sometimes her "Lust List," a very campy song that cracks her audiences up.

When asked to describe her cabaret repertoire, she replied: "I love to sing comedy. One of my biggest joys in this lifetime is making people laugh. If I'm not singing something funny, I'll hopefully be saying something funny."

"Everybody has a story. All the music I sing has a story. I try not to sing too many 'slit your wrists,' unrequited love songs, but of course many of us have that story, so I do sing a couple now and then. If I do, I want someone to hear it in a way that makes them feel not quite so badly about it. There's hope in my songs."

Making the switch

Hall certainly knows about hope. While she is a hoot onstage and off, her life has not always been a bed of roses. Married for 18 years to, of all things, a very religious Christian man, she experienced considerable emotional abuse after gaining weight while bearing her two daughters. After she and her husband made love, he'd tell her that he'd been fantasizing about some other woman.

"After awhile," she reveals, "I wondered what in the world he could possibly be fantasizing about. So I started thinking about other women, too. I ended up having an eight-year affair, and it was pretty wonderful. Eventually we were found out, and my husband kicked me out of the house."

After Hall lost custody of her children in a highly publicized, "very nasty" court battle, her oldest daughter, Melody, was killed in a car accident in 1996. Five

months later, her youngest daughter Erin, now 13, broke contact because Hall is a lesbian.

"So basically I've lost both my children, in one form or fashion. It's been tough. My music has saved me. I can attest to how healing music is; it's what keeps me going."

And going she is, stronger than ever, with a strength of spirit and seductiveness of voice that win her friends and followers wherever she performs. "I want more opportunities to sing. My goal is to sing as much as I can, and to die singing. That's what I want. I just want to die singing."

Janey Hall performs at Piaf's, 1686 Market St., on Thanksgiving, Nov. 23. The show begins at 8:30 p.m., with Hall expected to sing an extended set starting around 9:15 p.m. ▼

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OUT & ABOUT

Calendare by Mark Mardon

Earth's greatest

A great friend of the gay and lesbian community, legendary environmental activist **David R. Brower**, passed away on November 5, 2000 at age 88, and unless I and others of his close acquaintance publicly take note of the fact, many in our community might remain unaware of his giant presence in our midst.

Those currently aware of Brower's legacy most certainly include every member and supporter of Gay and Lesbian Sierrans, one of the most successful groups in Sierra Club history—and most likely anyone who ever hiked with them or struggled with them to save a habitat. That group and all GLBT people have benefited enormously from Brower's advocacy of human rights in all their splendid colors, including lavender rights.

I was privileged to know Brower intimately, but only for some of the last years of his life. I met him when he was about to turn 80, when I was accorded the honor of editing a piece he wrote for the Centennial issue of *Sierra Magazine*, the Sierra Club's flagship publication. Brower had a reputation then for being irascible in working with editors, since he himself was an editor who literally changed the publishing world by introducing the concept of coffee-table books filled with gorgeous photos of the natural world, most notably those of his friend and colleague Ansel Adams. He was a living legend, having guided the Sierra Club through its transition from a staid California-based conservation organization to an activist, progressive national grassroots organization committed to fighting battles on Capitol Hill. He had a reputation for taking staunch, uncompromising stands in favor of protecting Earth from the pillages of industrial greed.

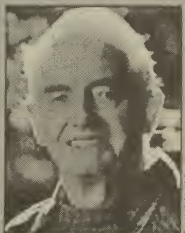
Brower had learned resolve in the course of a spectacular mountaineering career that saw him do heroic deeds with U.S. ski mountaineering troops in Italy during W.W.II, then go on to conquer many first ascents of granite walls in Yosemite and elsewhere throughout the Sierra Nevada. He loved those mountains, and fought passionately to protect them, along with mountains, seashores, deserts, rivers, forests and natural wonders everywhere, on all continents, as well as the natural treasures of the seas. With superhuman vigor and vision he founded Friends of the Earth, Earth Island Institute, the League of Conservation Voters, and a host of other extraordinary grassroots organizations.

Thrice Brower was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize, and one of my proudest moments as his friend was witnessing him meet with his friend the Dalai Lama, the two of them enjoying a reunion amid a crush of cameras and reporters. The event took place aboard Greenpeace's Rainbow Warrior, berthed in the harbor of Rio de Janeiro during the June 1992 Earth Summit, which brought world leaders together to hammer out an international environmental treaty, thereby shining a glaring light on the failed environmental policies of the Bush administration. Brower and the Dalai Lama came to Rio to make a statement to Bush and other heads of state: fail on the environment, and you fail to lead responsibly.

Given Brower's gravitas, a junior editor such as myself could hardly begin to match his weight, and might have had a hard time giving him direction. But I was soon to learn how big the man really was: his openness and generosity in working with me to shape a powerful piece transformed my own career, and put us both in a good light. He loved working with young activists and adventurers, which accounted for legions of young men and women looking to him as mentor and inspiration. At his modest home in the Berkeley hills, he and his wife Anne, herself a powerhouse editor, regularly hosted Sunday morning waffle breakfasts for all defenders of the earth, young and old. The Brower home was a joyful place to be.

What Brower conveyed to the world, through books, periodicals, documentaries, speeches and every conceivable medium, was that humanity counts as part of nature, and must be fought for valiantly, just as every animal and plant species counts and must be protected. When we allow habitats to die, or species to become extinct, we only hurt ourselves by pushing ever closer toward our own mass extinction. Brower openly and proudly supported the gay and lesbian cause, understanding that in this world, all things are interconnected, that we lesbians, gay men, transgendered people, people of color, people with AIDS, bisexuals and myriad other sexualities and identities are all integral and beautiful parts of the natural fabric of life. ▼

The public is cordially invited to join Earth Island Institute, the Brower family, and the City of Berkeley for a "David Brower Memorial Celebration" on Saturday, December 2, 2-4 p.m. (doors open at 1:30 p.m.), at the Berkeley Community Theater, 1930 Allston Way (at Milvia). For more information, surf www.earthisland.org.



David R. Brower

Alán S. Quismorio performs in One Act Wonders' *Desperados* at La Val's Subterranean in Berkeley. See Friday.

Fri 24

La Val's Subterranean, Berkeley

"The One Act Wonders" having nothing to do with Thanksgiving, directed by Alan Goy, featuring Alan S. Quismorio, Adam Chipkin, Claire D'Alton, Katarina Fabic, Janet Johnston, and Lisa Larice in two one-act plays: *Desperados* by Keith Reddin (Phil and his ex-model girlfriend, hiding out in a sleazy New Jersey motel, have robbed a convenience store and have taken its proprietor hostage. Amidst talk of bigger jobs to come, Phil finds himself face-to-face with who he really is and what he can never be), and *Laundry and Bourbon* by James McLure (years after high school, two friends and an old adversary meet on a back porch in Texas to fold laundry, drink bourbon, and sort out marriages that have turned out to be less than was hoped for). This production inaugurates a new theatre company dedicated to producing the best of the underrepresented pantheon of one-act plays. \$8 (\$5 with student ID); 8pm. Also on Sat., Nov. 25 at 8pm and Sun., Nov. 26 at 7pm. 1834 Euclid, Berkeley. Info: (510) 428-2330, ext. 2.

New Conservatory Theatre Center

"Wreaths for the Arts," a fundraising sale of holiday wreaths designed and decorated by national celebrities and local public officials, florists, designers, businesses and schools to benefit the Theatre Center's Children's Educational Touring Programs. The donated wreaths will be hung on public view in the lobby, open Tue-Sat 1:30-7pm, Sun. noon-3pm. Prices range from \$50 to \$500. Info: 861-4914.

Theatre Rhinoceros

Continuing run: *Naked Boys Singing*, the musical revue performed by seven gentlemen displaying the special charms in comedy, dance and song. \$25-\$30. 8pm (5pm & 8pm Sat.; 3pm & 7pm Sun.). Thru Dec. 3. 2926 16th St. Tix: 433-9500; www.tickets.com

Shelton Theatre

The Lighthouse Theatre Company presents Anton Chekov's great social prophecy, *The Cherry Orchard*, directed by Oleg Liptsin, the Russian artistic director of Kiev's Theatreclub. The play is the story of a changing society seen through the eyes of one family. \$22.50-\$29.50 (\$15 students). 8pm. Thru. Dec. 22. 533 Sutter St. Tix/info: 419-8368.

Felicia Faulkner plays in the Lighthouse Theatre Company production of Chekov's *The Cherry Orchard* at Shelton Theatre. See Friday.

Herbst Theatre

The Women's Philharmonic, conducted by Apo Hsu, presents "A Celebration of the Spirit," including the world premiere of "Spiritual Trilogy" by Oakland composer Jackie Hairston. Featuring renowned vocalist Linda Tillery and The Cultural Heritage Choir. \$21-\$38. 8pm. Van Ness at McAllister. Tix: 392-4400.

Sat 25

Asian Art Museum

In commemoration of World AIDS Day, the Asian presents readings by acclaimed author Russell Charles Leong, as well as new voices of young Asian Pacific Islanders Lolan Sevilla, Philip Huang, and Sonny Vajrabukka. Introduction by SF poet laureate Janice Mirikitani. Leong, author of *Asian American Sexualities: Dimensions of the Gay and Lesbian Experience* (Routledge, 1994) will read from *Phoenix Eyes and Other Stories* (University of Washington Press, 2000) and the *Country of Dreams and Dust* (West End Press, 1993), two of his published works on the themes of sexuality and AIDS. Co-presented with the API Wellness Center, Community HIV/AIDS Services, Harvey Milk Institute, Society for Asian Art, and A Different Light Bookstore. Free with museum admission. 2pm. Trustees' Auditorium. Golden Gate Park. Info: 379-8800; www.asianart.org

A Traveling Jewish Theatre

Opening night: "The Waiting Room," presented by Nightletter Theater under the artistic direction of Arthur and Sydney Carson, in collaboration with Director Jim Cave and set designer Lauren Elder. A play about the nature of freedom, mortality, memory, and the strange logic of dreams, utilizing performers, live music, video and an interactive installation. \$20 (\$15 seniors; \$12 students; \$27 for special benefit performance and reception on Monday, Nov. 27, 7pm). 8pm (Sun. 2pm & 7pm). Thru Dec. 17. 470 Florida St. (btwn 17th & Mariposa). Tix: 978-0921.



Bale Folclórico Da Bahia performs "Carnaval 2000" at Marin Center. See Wednesday.



"Daryl Flick," part of the exhibition "The Most Terrible Time in My Life Ends Thursday" by Miles Ellis, with opening reception 6-9 p.m. at Golden Gate Performing Arts Gallery, 400 Castro St. Info: 863-4472.

Sun 26

SF Hiking Club

Join other outdoor lovers for a Coyote Hill Regional Park Hike and enjoy one of the East Bay's most beautiful parks. It's a moderate 8-10 mile hike with a 500-ft. elevation gain. Meet 9am under the big Safeway sign at Market & Dolores. Club info: 487-6410; www.sfhiking.com

Mon 27

Café Du Nord

"Performance Cabaret Variety Show" featuring live funky music with musician/showman Mark Growden and his Electric Piñata, plus special guests. \$5. 9pm. 2170 Market St. 861-5016.

Piaf's

QComedy.com presents Gay Comedy Showcase, hosted by Julia Jackson. Plus Blake, Regina Stoops, John Doyle, Chris Duffy, Robert Mac, and Bridget Schwartz. \$5. 8pm. 1686 Market St. (at Gough). 541-5610.

Tue 28

Green Room, Veteran's Building

Composers, Inc. presents an evening of works by contemporary American composers. Featuring soprano Christine Schadeberg and compositions by Lansing D. McLoskey (viola and piano), Deniz Ince (piano solo), Robert Greenberg (soprano and piano), David Macbride (soprano and piano), and Allen Shearer (soprano, violin, clarinet, harp). \$18 (\$12 students/seniors/disabled). 8pm. 401 Van Ness. Tix: 512-0641 or at door.

Theatre Rhinoceros

"Make It So" Productions presents "Viva Variety XIII — The Thanksgiving Show," an evening of variety acts, highlighting the best in gay and "gay-

friendly" entertainment, a benefit for Full Circle (www.fullcircle-sf.org). Featuring VV regular and performance artist Peggy L'Eggs along with vocalist Carole Langston as Edith Piaf, dancers from Fat Chance Belly Dance, singer Mary Martin as Stevie Nicks, country musicians J Byrd Hosch and the Kuntry K's, comedians Scott Silverman and Lisa Geduldig, and comic actors Elizabeth Marie and Lu Read. Hosted by Steve Murray. \$20. 8pm. 2926 16th St. (at South Van Ness). Tix/info: 863-0741, ext. #2; www.makeitsoproductions.org

Wed 29

Hosfelt Gallery

Preview exhibition for SF Camerawork's "2000 Annual Benefit Auction of Fine Photographic Prints," which takes place on Sat., December 2. Today is your advance chance to peruse the 200+ vintage and contemporary photographs up for grabs, donated to the cause by nationally and regionally known photographers, galleries and collectors. Free admission to preview (admission to the auction itself is by catalog, \$15 from Camerawork, Fraenkel Gallery, Robert Koch Gallery, Hosfelt Gallery and other locations). 11am-5:30pm. 430 Clementina St. (btwn 5th & 6th, Howard & Folsom). Catalog orders: 764-1001. Info: www.sfcamerawork.org and/or www.eyestorm.com. (Note: SF Camerawork is looking for a new home, having been forced by rent increase to move out of its former SoMa location. It will temporarily be operating out of the New Langton Arts space at 1246 Folsom St.)

Eureka Theatre

42nd Street Moon presents "I Married An Angel," the intoxicating 1938 Rodgers & Hart musical, featuring Lesley Hamilton in the role of Countess Peggy Palaffi. Set in Budapest, where a wealthy playboy banker named Willy Palaffi is weary of the

"sophisticated" women with whom he has been involved. \$13 previews (including tomorrow, November 30); otherwise \$19-\$25. Thru December 23. 8pm (6pm Sat.; 2pm Sun.). 215 Jackson St. (btwn Battery & Front). Tix/info: 788-1125; www.42ndSt-Moon.com

Marin Center, San Rafael

Brazil's Balé Folclórico Da Bahia presents "Carnaval 2000," in which the 30-member folkdance company, acclaimed for its technical virtuosity and exuberance, delivers a combination of street beat, high-flying martial arts, and sexy samba. \$20 & \$30 (\$16 under age 14). 8pm. Avenue of the Flags, San Rafael. Tix/info: (415) 472-3500; www.marincenter.org

Modern Times Bookstore

Reading & booksigning with author and art historian Rebecca Solnit, whose Hollow City reports from the front line of gentrification in SF. Drawing on architectural history, contemporary urban studies, and vivid first-hand descriptions, Solnit projects the end of city life for bohemians and its baleful consequences for American culture. Free. 7:30pm. 888 Valencia St. (at 20th St.). Info: 282-9246; www.mtbs.com

Thu 30

The Bindlestiff Studio

Opening night: W.E. Productions presents "The Only Difference Between Truth and Paranoia is Evidence," a solo theatrical conception written, directed and performed by Armando Erba, with music/sound design by Mark Newstetter. Produced by Ron Williams, with associate producer Philip R. Ford. The play asks: "Ever seen one person go through life masking his genuine voice?" \$15 Fri. & Sat.; \$12 Wed., Thu. & Sun. 8:30pm. 185 - 6th Street (at Howard). Tix/info: 974-1167 or 621-7312; www.webcastro.com/evidence

Studio @ Rhino

Preview: Erinyes presents "Sunday on the Rocks," Theresa Rebeck's funny, moving portrait of four women dealing with life, love, a whole lot of scotch and, most importantly, each other. \$15 (\$12 students/seniors). 8:30pm. Runs Dec. 1-16. The Studio at Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St. Tix/info: 861-5079; www.erinyes.ws

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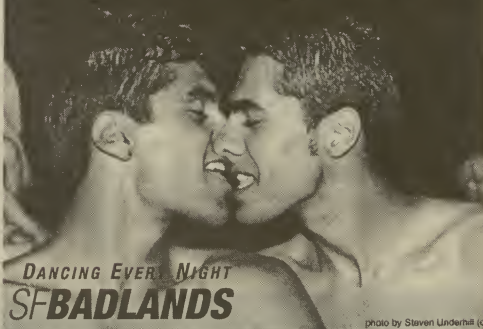


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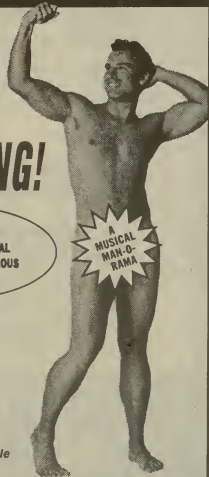
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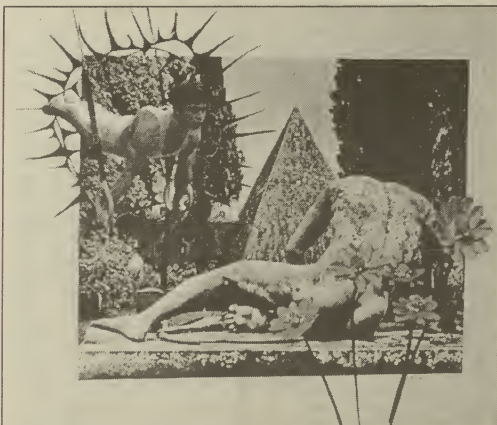
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David King

Preview celebrated queer artist David King's *Savior II* and other choice photo-art selections up for grabs in SF Camerawork's annual benefit auction taking place at Hosfelt Gallery. See Wednesday.

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Leather wonderland

by Mister Marcus

As we plunge head-on into the winter leather season, a plethora of events is coming our way to make the holidays sparkle and to support worthy benefits taking place all around. Imagine Santa headed in our direction, decked out in leather and ho ho ho-ing with a bag of leather trinkets slung over his shoulder!

But well before he arrives in our neck of the woods, the leather spotlight will be turned on Toronto, Canada where the Mr. Leather Toronto 2001 contest takes place on Saturday night, November 25. Duncan McLachlan (MLT 96) chairs this year's extravaganza, where so much is going on that space limitations preclude my listing everything.

Among other things, expect to find a leather mart, "Vendor's Alley," at the host hotel (Ramada Downtown), and various seminars, workshops and play parties throughout the weekend.

eStevan de Castro, MLT 2000, will endure the indignities of a "roast" on Thursday night at the Black Eagle. The contest happens on Saturday night, followed by a gigantic leather dance party at the same venue, then by a victory brunch on Sunday.

Several Big Kahunas of the leather nation will be on hand to see five men — Chris Alger, Remi Colette, Mark Henderson, Steve Stryker and Peter Theodoropoulos — compete for the world-famous Toronto title belt. It's always a great time in Toronto and you



Norm Miller, left, was chosen Mr. Ottawa-Hull Leather 2001 last Saturday, Nov. 12 in Ottawa. He posed with runner-up Rick Kingston.

couldn't ask for better hosts. I will be attending the event, so expect to find the results here next week.

Reminders

While I'm plugging leather events, be again reminded that the deadline for obtaining \$95 entry to the Centaur MC's Mid-Atlantic Leather Weekend in Washington, D.C. (January 12-15) is December 1. After that, the fee shoots up to \$115, so hurry if you want to save a few bucks.

Also, on Saturday, November 25, in New Hope, Pennsylvania the Bucks MC stage their annual, gigantic Santa's Auction. Hundreds of East Coast leather people will congregate there to continue the tradition of raising thousands of dollars for the holiday charity. (One of these days I hope to make it to that event!)

No ballot uncoupled

We still may not know who the President Elect is by the time you read this, but the votes are in from leather title contests that took place last week.

In Palm Springs, Tracy DeRoche emerged as the winner of the Mr. Palm Springs Leather 2001 contest. Reports are it was a spirited event, receiving the most lavish praise on the website of Papa Tony Lindsey in San Diego.

I wanted to bring you photos of the winners of the Mr. and Ms. Santa Clara County Leather contests — Glen Fidi and Gwendolyn Evans — but alas

none were forthcoming from the election officials. I suppose they have their reasons/excuses.

Local elections

The great news to emerge locally is that the Eagle Tavern has announced it will field a contestant for the Mr. San Francisco Leather 2001 contest, scheduled to take place on Friday, March 9, 2001.

The Eagle competition will be on Sunday, January 14 at their regular Sunday beer bust. I suggest you check with them if you want to compete. Certain leather-oriented businesses have expressed an interest in entering a contest, and Mr. SF Leather Lance Gear is beating the bushes to find genuine leather men to compete.

In a city with a heavy leather community, I see no reason why we shouldn't have several candidates.

And while I'm in the neighborhood, I hope you were able to attend Daddy's 5th anniversary parties last Wednesday and Thursday, November 15 & 16. Glennon Sutter was named Daddy of the Year, and Vince DiColla was named Employee of the Year. It was festive both nights, with a commemorative pin dispensed, all sorts of door prizes distributed, and entertainment aplenty by Irene Soderburg (she's sounding better and better, and her new CD is hot!), TJ & Sheba, Brian Benamati, and Donna Sachet, with various people emceeing.

next page ▶

EVENTURES

Weekend Nov. 24-26

In Toronto, Canada, eStevan de Castro passes the sash to one of five men competing for Canada's top leather title. The "Vendor's Alley" is at the host Ramada Downtown Hotel with scads of events to keep you busy while cruising all that Canadian Bacon on the hoof!

Saturday, Nov. 25

The 15 Association monthly play party at the usual location. \$10 donation for guests. BYOB. Your guest(s) must accompany you; for more info, call 673-0452.

Friday, Dec. 1

Absolute deadline for Centaur MC's Mid-Atlantic Leather weekend in January for the \$95 package. After that, it's \$115, so stop dicking around and get

your application in!

Saturday, Dec. 2

San Franciscans MC celebrate their 30th anniversary at a private residence, by invitation or wearing your club overlay. Congratulations and continued success.

The San Franciscans are romper room material compared to B.A.R. columnist Sweet Lips, celebrating his 78th birthday at the Club Rendez-vous on Polk Street, 1300-1800. It's catered by Dennis (snacks & slaps). "Red attire" is requested!

Sunday, Dec. 3

Defenders MC host the beer/soda bust at the Eagle this afternoon, 1500-1800. The usual \$8 fee for suds with food and Santa will grace your presence to see if you've been naughty or nice!

Let us now praise infamous leathersmen

by John F. Karr

The most ludicrous, the most wonderful, the most in-your-face affair in America today is the yearly International Mr. Leather contest. Downtown Chicago is transformed by the oddity, the hedonism, the physical beauty and soaring spirit of 5,000 leathersmen who descend on the Congress Hotel and nearby environs for the world's largest male beauty pageant. It's probably sillier than any beauty contest ever was, combining pageant and bacchanal, but in its refusal to disconnect sexuality from personality, it plumbs the profound.

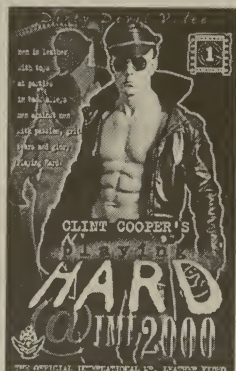
If you've attended, or are simply curious about this circus of sensuality, you'll be fascinated by a cunning documentary about the event, called *Clint Cooper's Playing Hard @ IML 2000*, produced by Channel 1 Releasing. While there have been previous videos shot on the periphery of the event, they've been porn extravaganzas more interested in poaching on the contest's reputation than

in documenting it. This video provides the contest's full flavor by skillfully tracking the contestants through the event's three-day course, offering brief interviews with contestants, judges and attendees, and including enough hardcore sex, enacted by some actual attendees as well as professional performers, to provide the film with the same atmosphere of horny sexual abandon that suffuses the event itself.

Cooper, whose name in the title is the only credit to appear anywhere in the film, shows a bemused wonder in his filmmaking. The video's snappy editing whisks us from a desk clerk's testimonial about the leathersmen's openness and pride ("They're not different from the other guests at all") to a shot of a blindfolded slave hobbling across the lobby while shackled in arm and leg irons.

Heart to hard-on

Although *Hard Playing @ IML 2000* seems intent on exposing the easily ridiculed foibles of leathersmen, the result is a fuller appreciation of the leather community's achievement. For instance, while the weekend may be a maelstrom of sex swirling through the hallways, the lavatories, the suites, and the backstage area, the men who helm the event, these leaders of



the leather community, will not forget that a hard-on can have a heart connection. "What are we looking for?" a judge asks. "A combination of mind, body, spirit and heart."

While this results in some Deepak Chakra in Leather moments, with a lot of hunks declaiming humid New Age clichés, the guys are sincere. They await directions backstage

draped in highly trendy leatherwear, severe Flash Gordon fantasies of cowhide and chrome. Compared to the haute variety, leather couture is simply slashing: so over the top, yet so minimal. Very few can really carry it off. It's like Cher in a Bob Mackie: your everyday housewife doesn't dare. But these men are confident, unashamed in their sexuality, and it makes them giggle like schoolboys. It's tough being real and butch simultaneously, to be an icon of masculinity and not become steely, and I give a lot of credit to these guys for shaping out of their lives and fevered imaginations a role model for other gay men.

One contestant explains the cosmic meaning of his tattoos, which have been appropriated from a pop culture skimming of sacred texts and are highly diluted, cartoonish renderings. "This is a portal to my soul," he says. This can sound portentous, silly. But I'm entranced that some men are thinking about the origin and power of sex, how its physical manifestation can affect the soul, and most especially, how sexuality can and should be groomed to bloom and flourish. A lot of these guys are having really informed sex.

There's a lot of sex in *Playing*

Hard @IML 2000, and that's as it should be. A documentary about this weekend has to include the sex, or it lies. At heart, there's only snippets — some eye-opening dildo play, a fierce bondage and abuse scene with some manic tit torture (right in the hotel's lobby!). But then, at the heart of the movie, there's a 15-minute scene set in an otherwise unremarkable hallway. Strikingly shot in black-and-white, starring Cooper and a uniformed fellow with a tautly bursting cock, this is what IML is all about: sex of the deep-cleansing action variety.

Porn stars entertain at the big dance, and Cooper does his act. This is a big showgirl, honey, and she's superb. Later, as the contest unfolds, my current fave Nino Bacci is seen for two stirring moments in a threeway. Backstage, the contestants seem to be having an orgy, while onstage the finalists announce their credos using some mighty platitudes. But they are seeking to give words to a most mysterious, primal urge, to understand and gain control of it, and their effort and success is incredible. The movie could sneer that what was once a secret society has become a packaged commodity, but instead provides a calm measure of its worth. We come to see that the leather community is a fraternity of sexual pioneers.

Yet when the judges declare they've spent three days looking into the heart and soul of the contestants, I'm more than a little skeptical. A typically probing question was concerned with not only boot, but also dick size. And my favorite question was, "What are your two favorite fetishes?" which makes fetishism, something that technically chooses you, into something that you choose, like the Fetish of the Month Club. The Mysteries can seem mundane when exposed like this, codified and served up. And yet, the questions bind the physical and the philosophical together to announce the IML Credo: It's your heart and cock, together. You don't hear Log Cabin Republicans, or even Democrats for that matter, espousing such a sensible platform. I'd love to vote for a presidential candidate running on the Leather Platform. He'd probably not get elected. But I'm sure he'd get the popular vote.

The producers of IML 2000 implore men to take their experience of a brotherhood in sexuality out into the world. What an admirable thing to do. ▼

www.Channel1Releasing.com

Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

Alas, Philip Turner was unable to attend due to his physical condition, but we're all hoping he will have a speedy recovery. Here's saying congratulations and best wishes for continued success for Daddy's. Bob Brunson did a great job organizing this event!

Last Saturday night, the Golden Gate Guards MC celebrated their big anniversary with a fabulous buffet, followed by a birthday cake. A large crowd showed up, attesting to the popularity of this club. They heard Lou Grosso an-

nounced as the new president (and recording secretary pro "test" - his words!), with Andy Rose assuming the VP duties. Jack Goodall returns as the Road Captain, and Chris Kanda is the Recording Secretary, with Keith Truitt serving as the corresponding secretary.

It was great seeing so many people from the Russian River and the East Bay attending, including the new Mr. North Coast Leather, T. Jay Cain.

Clearly it should be a good year for the Guards — congrats!

Parties and gifts galore

Don't duck the many holiday

leather parties coming your way, including Donna Sachet's "Songs of the Season" show on Monday and Tuesday, December 4 and 5, this time at the Plush Room in the Hotel York on Sutter Street. Tickets are only \$25 for each night, all to benefit the AIDS Emergency Fund. You may recall this show last time raised some \$7,500 for the AEF.

Be sure to visit Mister S, Image Leather, A Taste of Leather, Auto Erotica, Stormy Leather, and Mercury Mail Order for gifts to your lover, boy friend, pal or buddy. Hey, you're in San Francisco; you couldn't possibly find a better selection of leather anywhere else! ▼

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The good, the chad and the ugly

by Victoria A. Brownworth

We have sooo much to be thankful for this Thanksgiving — the pregnant Yasmine Bleeth on *Ti-tans* and the pregnant chads in Florida. The dimpled Bianca on *All My Children* and the dimpled chads in Florida. But as we give thanks Thursday night, we will be most grateful that the big Texas turkey hasn't made it into the White House yet.

Speaking of turkeys, may we note Mr. "I-screwed-the-election, didn't-get-my-five-percent, but-I'm-still-a-millionaire-so-I-don't-care" Nader has certainly been MIA since election night. All talk, no action — political cynicism at its absolute worst. We said all along if people actually listened to Nader they couldn't possibly vote for him.

But we digress. The excitement — and horror — of TV is that viewers get to see history in the making. Which means for the two weeks since the election we have been privy (and we use that term advisedly) to the Bush baby in all his tantrum-throwing glory. First we got to see him play Cabinet with three of the scariest people in America: Colin Powell, Dick Cheney, and Condoleezza Rice, the super-smart ultra-conservative who looks like a black Donna Reed, and whom Bush wants for national security advisor. Then we got to see him stress into a plague of boils. Then he made his public address after Al Gore suggested a truce. We loved how he made the governor's mansion in Austin look like the Oval Office for that one. But where Gore had looked positively animated in his address from Washington, Bush looked like he'd been hit with a taser right before he went on the air. Talk

about a deer caught in the headlights (and could his eyes get any smaller?).

We kept waiting to see Dubya stamp his foot and yell an addendum to his tirade on the inaccuracy of hand-counts (these would be the same hand-counts he signed into law in Texas, and the same hand-counts he used in six counties himself in Florida as well as in New Mexico): "But Dad promised if I hired all his old guys, I'd look so presidential I'd win!"

Dubya's robotic appearances — complete with boils — and those of the sexy, smooth Bill Clinton wooing Southeast Asia couldn't have been more antithetical. As Clinton cracked jokes at the Asian summit and gave one of his gut-wrenching speeches apologizing for the deaths of three million Vietnamese in Vietnam, we got a final taste of what a real president looks like — smart, savvy and at ease in the world.

Secretary of Snip

Meanwhile, the only thing more frightening than Bush himself is his entourage. We loved Cheney's impression of Al Haig on 20/20 last week when he announced that, "Win, lose or die," the Bush team would be declaring victory last Saturday. Too bad the die part wasn't a campaign promise. Then there's Daddy's former Secretary of State James Baker, who puts the "s" in snippy. We can only hope the wild hair up his ass will eventually strangle him.

But for ultra-scariness, there is no one quite like Dubya's campaign chair, Karen Hughes. Why do all Republican women look like renegade dykes from a prison movie? Are they all ex-gays, or what? Hughes is so bumpy she makes Arnold Schwarzenegger look nelly. When not spouting her favorite retort to any move from the Gore camp, "Unbelievable," she can be seen twisting her pinky ring and nipping at the ankles of elderly Democrats in Palm Beach. Lea DeLaria can play her in the TV movie.

Meanwhile, we've learned Gore really is his own man. Unlike Clinton, he favors a hand job over a blow job. Let's just hope the one being done in Florida lets him come into the Oval Office. There would certainly be some poetic justice if the Florida county that gave us Anita Bryant and the Christian Coalition would now deliver a pro-gay Democrat to the White House.

Lest we appear too biased, we'll comment briefly upon the Gore team. Now, we appreciate what a singularly smart man Warren Christopher is, but did the Gore camp go for him just to have dueling ex-Sec's of State, or because they wanted the country to get used to looking at a 100-year-old guy who looks like a turtle, for when Strom Thurmond becomes acting President if Gore and Bush haven't finished duking it out by Jan. 20?

Gore campaign wonk Richard Daly is the junkyard dog who should never be let into the parlor. Daly sounds like he breaks

kneecaps for the Teamsters in his spare time.

Rate the press

Of course, this hasn't been the finest hour for the press, either. CBS gets an F for their coverage, from Election Night through this minute. One can only ask Dan Rather, "What's the frequency, Kenneth?" and one certainly sees why *The Early Show* is the lowest-rated of the morning news programs. Does CBS even know there's an election crisis going on?

NBC certainly knows — they're rivaling CNN for non-stop coverage. Tim Russert, an attorney and a former political campaign wonk himself, has re-

ally enjoyed the last two weeks, spending more time on *Dateline* than Jane Pauly and Stone Phillips combined.

Over on ABC, we see more of Peter Jennings and George Stephanopoulos than we did of the folks in the *Big Brother* house. Since the election, Jennings has cut into every prime-time show, soap, talk show and even his own nightly news program with breaking tidbits from Florida. And *Good Morning America* has trumped NBC's *Today* with election coverage.

Unfortunately, all the deconstruction hasn't made Jennings and Stephanopoulos any more able to hide their anti-Clinton (and by extension, Gore) bias, nor has it made Charlie Gibson and Diane Sawyer any smarter. But even Sawyer, a die-hard Republican who got her start as a speechwriter for Richard Nixon, has been surprised by the obviousness of the Republican power-play in the Sunshine State. She even suggested Florida Secretary of State Katherine Harris might try looking a little less biased in her deep desire to get Bush into the White House. But since Harris, co-chair of the Bush campaign in Florida, is the most-traveled Sec'y of State in the history of Florida, we think she's angling for an Ambassadorship. May we suggest Sierra Leone?

Of course, the most biting commentary on the politics of the moment has come from *Politically Incorrect*. We particularly enjoyed Bill Maher revisiting *The Grinch Who Stole Christmas* with an election spin ("All the Jews down in Jewville... voted for the Third Reich"). And it's been amazing to see the conservatives on his panels go wild over the hand count. PI regulars and Beltway insiders Ann Coulter and Niger Innis were beside themselves discussing the unfairness of the concept, "Every vote counts."

But Kristen Short, Exec. Dir. of Young Americans for Freedom, was the sort of Young Republican who takes the veil off compassionate conservatism and shows the hydra within. She was absolutely creepy on the subject of race. Despite myriad reports that minority voters were either kept from voting or made to "prove" their right to vote, Short said, "Oh please. Nobody tried to keep African Americans from voting, Jesse Jackson's just play-

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BOOKS

Spinning for the hate-mongers

by Deborah Peifer

I've long been an admirer of Claire McNab's detective fiction. Her Detective Inspector Carol Ashton is one of the great heroes of the genre, and the first Denise Cleever thriller was an exceptional page-turner. With her second Cleever novel, *Death Understood* (Naaid, \$11.95), McNab moves into a whole new realm of exciting and thought-provoking fiction. *Death Understood* is a highly entertaining read, no doubt about that, but it will cause you to think furiously about politics and free speech and what happens when hate is dressed up in soothing rhetoric.

Denise is an undercover operative for the Australian Security

Intelligence Organization (ASIO), and her assignment is to infiltrate the Hiddwing Institute, a right-wing (to the right of Hitler, that is) think tank with a simple agenda, Australia for the Australians. If you're thinking Aboriginal Australians, think again. Aborigines, the folks at Hiddwing believe, should be forcibly repatriated to Asia, from whence they came over a land bridge eons ago. No, it's just the white folks that are the true and worthy Australians, but just how far are they willing to go to see their beliefs enacted into law? That's the question that Denise has to answer. With a background in public relations created for her by ASIO, Denise is put in the extraordinary situation of having to spin for right-wing fanatics whose every belief is abhorrent to her. When she discovers that she's actually pretty good at justifying their credo and behavior, that's scary, but when she starts to like the people who spout this racist vitriol, she learns what real fear is.

Readers can always count on McNab to raise topical issues thoughtfully, credibly, and compellingly, but *Death Understood* is all of that and much more. McNab weaves together a complex plot with more than a few mysteries, populates the novel with believable and likable characters (yes, likable racists — a truly frightening prospect), creates suspense and intense erotic tension, and manages to include more than a little well-placed humor. *Death Understood* is a readily delight.

Bio in a box

It's that time when thoughts turn to the winter shopping season and the sheer impossibility of

finding that perfect gift for that special someone. Fortunately, some books unusual, fascinating and just plain gorgeous are out in time to rescue you from the buying blues. If you have a friend who talks about writing but seems incapable of actually getting started,

The Autobiography Box by Brian Bouldrey (Chronicle Books, \$19.95) is the ideal answer. The box contains a book and decks of cards. The book offers helpful

suggestions and a series of questions designed to elicit the information that can lead to an actual written sentence, paragraph, even a page!

Individual cards raise thought-provoking issues: e.g., "What parts do you wish you hadn't written? There may be passages that not only scare you, but cause more problems than you thought needed to be solved. There may be secrets you wanted to keep hidden and there, on the page, they make those secrets seem available to anybody who comes along. How important is it to put our secrets in the open for others to read?" Bouldrey doesn't just ask questions, however; he also offers practical tips for getting started and getting better.

If your circle of friends includes tried and true Anglophiles, the University of California Press has you covered, and then some, with two fine new books. *In Search of England: Journeys into the English Past* (\$24.95) is Michael Wood's fascinating exploration of the history and myths that created "This royal throne of Kings, this sceptred isle,... This other Eden,... This blessed plot, this earth, this

realm, this England." Wood's exegesis of the Robin Hood legend is particularly interesting, and he writes in a style that is elegant and jargon-free.

I've never cared for the "coffee-table book," because I've always felt that what was in the book was much more important than how it looked on display. *The Annals of London: A Year-by-Year Record of a Thousand Years of History* (\$37.50) is the exception, however, and it's a book you'll be happy to display and happier to read. John Richardson gathers odd facts and interesting items about the birth and growth of the world's most interesting city. He doesn't just drop those facts unattended on the page, though. Richardson provides context for each, and, in the course of 408 beautifully illustrated pages, allows the reader to discover those astonishing moments, discoveries, and events that worked together to establish London in all its beauty and eccentricity.

In the spirit of the season

Allyson Publications is donating copies of its new anthology, *Revolutionary Voices: A Multicultural Queer Youth Anthology*, to any and all GLBT youth organizations who ask for it. Youth centers interested in receiving a free copy should send their request on letterhead to: Allyson Publications, Attn.: Dan Cullinane, 6922 Hollywood Boulevard, Suite 1000, Los Angeles, CA 90028, or by fax to (323) 467-0152.

If you have gossip, inquiries or information of a literary nature, send them to DeborahPeifer@msn.com, or via snail mail to the B.A.R.

Lavender Tube

◀ page 40

by Victoria A. Brownworth

e have sooo much to be thankful for this Thanksgiving — the pregnant Yasmine Bleeth on *Ti-tans* and the pregnant chads in Florida. The dimpled Bianca on *All My Children* and the dimpled chads in Florida. But as we give thanks Thursday night, we will be most grateful that the big Texas turkey hasn't made it into the White House yet.

Speaking of turkeys, may we note Mr. "I-screwed-the-election, didn't-get-my-five-percent, but-I'm-still-a-millionaire-so-I-don't-care" Nader has certainly been MIA since election night. All talk, no action — political cynicism at its absolute worst. We said all along if people actually *listened* to Nader they couldn't

possibly vote for him.

But we digress.

The excitement — and horror — of TV is that viewers get to see history in the making. Which means for the two weeks since the election we have been privy (and we use *that* term advisedly) to the Bush baby in all his tantrum-throwing glory. First we got to see him play Cabinet with three of the scariest people in America: Colin Powell, Dick Cheney, and Condoleezza Rice, the super-smart ultra-conservative who looks like a black Donna Reed, and whom Bush wants for national security advisor. Then we got to see him stress into a plague of boils. Then he made his public address after Al Gore suggested a truce. We loved how he made the governor's mansion in Austin look like the Oval Office for that one. But where Gore had looked positively animated in his address from Washington, Bush looked like he'd been hit with a taser right

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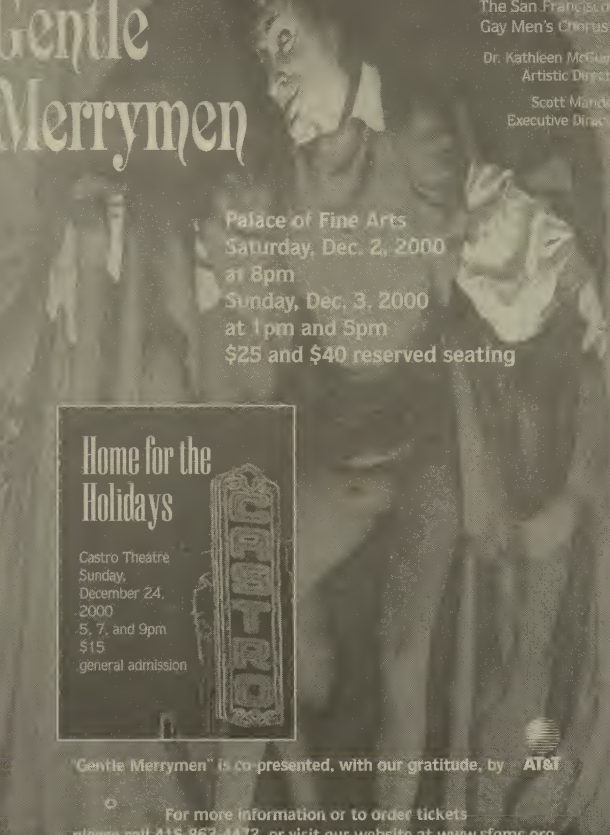
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SAFETY INFORMATION:

There have been cases of acid buildup in the blood and enlarged liver, including fatal cases. Fatal and non-fatal pancreatitis has occurred when ZERIT was part of a combination regimen that included didanosine, with or without hydroxyurea.

ZERIT may cause numbness, tingling or pain in the hands or feet (neuropathy). This risk is increased in patients with advanced HIV disease or a history of neuropathy. If this occurs, your doctor may suggest lowering the dose or stopping ZERIT to improve symptoms. Patients treated with ZERIT in combination with other medicines that may cause similar side effects may have a higher chance of developing these side effects. The most frequent side effects are nausea, diarrhea, headache, rash and neuropathy. ZERIT does not cure HIV infection or prevent passing HIV to others. ZERIT, in combination with other antiretroviral agents, is indicated for the treatment of HIV-1 infection.

1) 83% (49/59) and 49% (49/101) of patients taking ZERIT with lamivudine and didanosine had viral load undetectable at 48 weeks in an as-treated and intent to treat analysis respectively. (START 1. Data on file, Bristol-Myers Squibb)

2) IMS NPA Prescription Data 4/99 - 4/00.

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WARNING

LACTIC ACIDOSIS AND SEVERE HEPATOMEGALY WITH STEATOSIS, INCLUDING FATAL CASES, HAVE BEEN REPORTED WITH THE USE OF NUCLEOSIDE ANALOGUES ALONE OR IN COMBINATION, INCLUDING STAVUDINE AND OTHER ANTIRETROVIRALS (SEE WARNINGS).

INDICATIONS AND USAGE

ZERIT® (stavudine), in combination with other antiretroviral agents, is indicated for the treatment of HIV-1 infection (see CLINICAL STUDIES).

CLINICAL STUDIES

Combination Therapy: The combination use of ZERIT is based on the results of clinical studies in HIV-infected patients in double- and triple-combination regimens with other antiretroviral agents.

One of these studies (START 1) was a multicenter, randomized, open-label study comparing ZERIT (40 mg BID) plus lamivudine plus didanosine plus zalcitabine plus lamivudine plus didanosine in 202 treatment-naïve patients. Both regimens resulted in a similar magnitude of inhibition of HIV RNA levels and increases in CD4 cell counts through 48 weeks.

Monotherapy: The efficacy of ZERIT was demonstrated in a randomized, double-blind study (A1455-019, conducted 1992-1994) comparing ZERIT with zidovudine in 822 patients with a spectrum of HIV-related symptoms. The outcome in terms of progression of HIV disease and death was similar for both drugs.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

ZERIT is contraindicated in patients with clinically significant hypersensitivity to stavudine or to any of the components contained in the formulation.

WARNINGS

1. Lactic Acidosis/Severe Hepatomegaly with Steatosis: Lactic acidosis and severe hepatomegaly with steatosis, including fatal cases, have been reported with the use of nucleoside analogues alone or in combination, including stavudine and other antiretrovirals. A majority of these cases have been in women. Obesity and prolonged nucleoside exposure may be risk factors. Particular caution should be exercised when administering ZERIT to any patient with known risk factors for liver disease; however, cases have also been reported in patients with no known risk factors. Treatment with ZERIT should be suspended in any patient who develops clinical or laboratory findings suggestive of lactic acidosis or pronounced hepatotoxicity (which may include hepatomegaly and steatosis even in the absence of marked transaminase elevations).

2. Peripheral Neuropathy: Peripheral neuropathy, manifested by numbness, tingling, or pain in the hands or feet, has been reported in patients receiving ZERIT therapy. Peripheral neuropathy has occurred more frequently in patients with advanced HIV disease, a history of neuropathy, or concurrent neurotoxic drug therapy, including didanosine (see ADVERSE REACTIONS).

PRECAUTIONS

Information for Patients: Patients should be informed that an important toxicity of ZERIT is peripheral neuropathy. Patients should be aware that peripheral neuropathy is manifested by numbness, tingling, or pain in hands or feet, and that these symptoms should be reported to their physicians. Patients should be counseled that peripheral neuropathy occurs with greatest frequency in patients who have advanced HIV disease or a history of peripheral neuropathy, and that dose modification and/or discontinuation of ZERIT may be required if toxicity develops.

Caregivers of young children receiving ZERIT therapy should be instructed regarding detection and reporting of peripheral neuropathy.

Patients should be informed that when ZERIT is used in combination with other agents with similar toxicities, the incidence of adverse events may be higher than when ZERIT is used alone. These patients should be followed closely.

Patients should be informed that ZERIT is not a cure for HIV infection, and that they may continue to acquire illnesses associated with HIV infection, including opportunistic infections. Patients should be advised to remain under the care of a physician when using ZERIT. They should be advised that ZERIT therapy has not been shown to reduce the risk of transmission of HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination. Patients should be informed that the long-term effects of ZERIT are unknown at this time.

Patients should be informed that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommend that HIV-infected mothers not nurse newborn infants to reduce the risk of postnatal transmission of HIV infection.

Drug Interactions: Zidovudine may competitively inhibit the intracellular phosphorylation of stavudine. Therefore, use of zidovudine in combination with ZERIT is not recommended. (See CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY.)

Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility: In 2-year carcinogenicity studies in mice and rats, stavudine was noncarcinogenic at doses which produced exposures (AUC) 39 and 168 times, respectively, human exposure at the recommended clinical dose. Benign and malignant liver tumors in mice and rats and malignant urinary bladder tumors in male rats occurred at levels of exposure 250 (mice) and 732 (rats) times human exposure at the recommended clinical dose.

Stavudine was not mutagenic in the Ames *E. coli* reverse mutation, or the CHO/HGPRT mammalian cell forward gene mutation assays, with and without metabolic activation. Stavudine produced positive results in the *in vitro* human lymphocyte clastogenesis and mouse fibroblast assays, and in the *in vivo* mouse micronucleus test. In the *in vitro* assays, stavudine elevated the frequency of chromosome aberrations in human lymphocytes (concentrations of 25 to 250 µg/mL, without metabolic activation) and increased the frequency of transformed foci in mouse fibroblast cells (concentrations of 25 to 2500 µg/mL, with and without metabolic activation). In the *in vivo* micronucleus assay, stavudine was clastogenic in bone marrow cells following oral stavudine administration to mice at dosages of 600 to 2000 mg/kg/day for 3 days.

No evidence of impaired fertility was seen in rats with exposures based on C_{max} up to 2.16 times that observed following a clinical dosage of 1 mg/kg/day.

Pregnancy: Pregnancy "Category C." Reproduction studies have been performed in rats and rabbits with exposures (based on C_{max}) up to 399 and 183 times, respectively, of that seen at a clinical dosage of 1 mg/kg/day and have revealed no evidence of teratogenicity. The incidence in fetuses of a common skeletal variation, unossified or incomplete ossification of sternebrae, was increased in rats at 399 times human exposure, while no effect was observed at 216 times human exposure. A slight post-implantation loss was noted at 216 times the human exposure with no effect noted at approximately 135 times the human exposure. An increase in early neonatal mortality (birth to 4 days of age) occurred at 399 times the human exposure, while survival of neonates was unaffected at approximately 135 times the human exposure. A study in rats showed that stavudine is transferred to the fetus through the placenta. The concentration in fetal tissue was approximately one-half the concentration in maternal plasma. There are no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. Because animal reproduction studies are not always predictive of human response, stavudine should be used during pregnancy only if clearly needed.

Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry: To monitor maternal-fetal outcomes of pregnant women exposed to stavudine and other antiretroviral agents, an Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry has been established. Physicians are encouraged to register patients by calling (800) 259-4283.

Nursing Mothers: Studies in lactating rats demonstrated that stavudine is excreted in milk. Although it is not known whether stavudine is excreted in human milk, there exists the potential for adverse effects from stavudine in nursing infants. Mothers should be instructed to discontinue nursing if they are receiving stavudine. This instruction is consistent with the Centers for Disease Control recommendation that HIV-infected mothers not breast-feed their infants to avoid risking postnatal transmission of HIV infection.

Pediatric Use: Use of stavudine in pediatric patients is supported by evidence from adequate and well-controlled studies of stavudine in adults with additional pharmacokinetic and safety data in pediatric patients.

Adverse events that were reported to occur in 105 pediatric patients receiving

R ONLY

ZERIT (stavudine) 2 mg/kg/day for a median of 6.4 months in study ACTG 240 were generally similar to those reported in adults.

Stavudine pharmacokinetics have been evaluated in 25 HIV-infected pediatric patients ranging in age from 5 weeks to 15 years and in weight from 2 to 43 kg after 1 IV or oral administration of single doses and BID regimens (see CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY, Table 1 in full prescribing information).

ADVERSE REACTIONS

Adults: ZERIT therapy has been associated with peripheral neuropathy, which can be severe, is dose related, and occurs more frequently in patients being treated with neurotoxic drug therapy, including didanosine, in patients with advanced HIV infection, or in patients who have previously experienced peripheral neuropathy.

Patients should be monitored for the development of neuropathy, which is usually manifested by numbness, tingling, or pain in the feet or hands. Stavudine-related peripheral neuropathy may resolve if therapy is withdrawn promptly. In some cases, symptoms may worsen temporarily following discontinuation of therapy. If symptoms resolve completely, patients may tolerate resumption of treatment at one-half the dose (see DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION). If neuropathy recurs after resumption of ZERIT, permanent discontinuation of ZERIT should be considered.

When ZERIT is used in combination with other agents with similar toxicities, the incidence of adverse events may be higher than when ZERIT is used alone. Patients treated with ZERIT in combination with didanosine may be at increased risk for adverse events such as pancreatitis, peripheral neuropathy, and liver function abnormalities. (See WARNINGS and PRECAUTIONS.)

Selected clinical events that occurred in adult patients receiving ZERIT in a controlled monotherapy trial (Study A1455-019) are provided in Table 1.

Adverse Events	Percent (%)	
	ZERIT (40 mg BID) (n=412)	zidovudine (200 mg TID) (n=402)
Headache	54	49
Diarrhea	50	44
Peripheral Neuropathy/Neuroprathy	52	39
Rash	40	35
Nausea and Vomiting	39	44

^a Median duration of stavudine therapy = 79 weeks; median duration of zidovudine therapy = 53 weeks.

Pancreatitis was observed in three of the 412 adult patients who received ZERIT in a controlled monotherapy study.

Selected clinical adverse events that occurred in antiretroviral naive adult patients receiving ZERIT from two controlled combination studies are provided in Table 2.

Adverse Events	Percent (%)			
	START 1 (Combination Therapy)		START 2 (Combination Therapy)	
	ZERIT+ lamivudine+ indinavir (n=100) ^a	zidovudine+ lamivudine+ indinavir (n=102)	ZERIT+ didanosine+ indinavir (n=102) ^b	zidovudine+ lamivudine+ indinavir (n=103)
Nausea	43	63	53	67
Diarrhea	34	16	45	39
Headache	25	26	46	37
Rash	18	13	30	18
Vomiting	18	33	30	35
Peripheral Neuropathy/Neuroprathy	8	7	21	10

^a START 2 compared two triple-combination regimens in 205 treatment-naïve patients. Patients received either ZERIT (40 mg BID) plus didanosine plus lamivudine or zidovudine plus lamivudine plus indinavir.

^b Duration of stavudine therapy = 48 weeks.

Pancreatitis resulting in death was observed in one patient who received ZERIT plus didanosine plus indinavir in the START 2 study.

Selected laboratory abnormalities reported in a controlled monotherapy study (Study A1455-019) are provided in Table 3.

Parameter	Percent (%)	
	ZERIT (40 mg BID) (n=412)	zidovudine (200 mg TID) (n=402)
AST (SGOT) (>5.0 x ULN)	11	10
ALT (SGPT) (>5.0 x ULN)	13	11
Amylase (≥1.4 x ULN)	14	13

^a Data presented for patients for whom laboratory evaluations were performed.

^b Median duration of stavudine therapy = 79 weeks; median duration of zidovudine therapy = 53 weeks.

ULN = upper limit of normal.

Selected laboratory abnormalities reported in two controlled combination studies are provided in Tables 4 and 5.

Parameter	Percent of Patients			
	START 1		START 2	
	ZERIT+ lamivudine+ indinavir (n=100)	zidovudine+ lamivudine+ indinavir (n=102)	ZERIT+ didanosine+ indinavir (n=102)	zidovudine+ lamivudine+ indinavir (n=103)
Bilirubin (>2.6 x ULN)	7	6	16	8
SGOT (AST) (>5 x ULN)	5	2	7	7
SGPT (ALT) (>5 x ULN)	6	2	7	5
GGT (>5 x ULN)	2	2	5	2
Lipase (>2 x ULN)	6	3	5	5
Amylase (>2 x ULN)	4	<1	8	2

ULN = upper limit of normal.

Parameter	Percent (%)			
	START 1		START 2	
	ZERIT+ lamivudine+ indinavir (n=100)	zidovudine+ lamivudine+ indinavir (n=102)	ZERIT+ didanosine+ indinavir (n=102)	zidovudine+ lamivudine+ indinavir (n=103)
Total Bilirubin	65	60	68	55
SGOT (AST)	42	20	53	20
SGPT (ALT)	40	20	50	18
GGT	15	8	28	12
Lipase	27	12	26	19
Amylase	21	19	31	17

Observed During Clinical Practice: The following events have been identified during post-approval use of ZERIT (stavudine). Because they are reported voluntarily from a population of unknown size, estimates of frequency cannot be made. These events have been chosen for inclusion due to their seriousness, frequency of reporting, causal connection to ZERIT, or a combination of these factors.

Body as a Whole: abdominal pain, allergic reaction, and chills/fever.

Digestive Disorders: anorexia.

Hematologic Disorders: anemia, leukopenia, and thrombocytopenia.

Liver: lactic acidosis and hepatic steatosis (see WARNINGS), hepatitis and liver failure.

Musculoskeletal: myalgia.

Nervous System: insomnia.

Pediatric Patients: Adverse reactions and serious laboratory abnormalities in pediatric patients were similar in type and frequency to those seen in adult patients.

OVERDOSAGE

Experience with adults treated with 12 to 24 times the recommended daily dosage revealed no acute toxicity. Complications of chronic overdosage include peripheral neuropathy and hepatic toxicity. Stavudine can be removed by hemodialysis; the mean \pm SD hemodialysis clearance of stavudine is 120 ± 18 mL/min. Whether stavudine is eliminated by peritoneal dialysis has not been studied.

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

The interval between doses of ZERIT should be 12 hours. ZERIT may be taken without regard to meals.

Adults: The recommended dose based on body weight is as follows:

40 mg twice daily for patients ≥ 60 kg.

30 mg twice daily for patients < 60 kg.

Pediatrics: The recommended dose for pediatric patients weighing less than 30 kg is 1 mg/kg/dose, given every 12 hours. Pediatric patients weighing 30 kg or greater should receive the recommended adult dosage.

Dosage Adjustment: Patients should be monitored for the development of peripheral neuropathy, which is usually manifested by numbness, tingling, or pain in the feet or hands. These symptoms may be difficult to detect in young children (see WARNINGS). If these symptoms develop during treatment, stavudine therapy should be interrupted. Symptoms may resolve if therapy is withdrawn promptly. In some cases, symptoms may worsen temporarily following discontinuation of therapy. If symptoms resolve completely, patients may tolerate resumption of treatment at one-half the recommended dose.

20 mg twice daily for patients ≥ 60 kg.

15 mg twice daily for patients < 60 kg.

If neuropathy recurs after resumption of ZERIT, permanent discontinuation of ZERIT should be considered.

Renal Impairment: ZERIT may be administered to adult patients with impaired renal function with adjustment in dose as shown in Table 6.

Recommended Dosage Adjustment for Renal Impairment		
Creatinine Clearance (mL/min)	Recommended ZERIT Dose by Patient Weight	
	≥ 60 kg	< 60 kg
> 50	40 mg every 12 hours	30 mg every 12 hours
26-50	20 mg every 12 hours	15 mg every 12 hours
10-25	20 mg every 24 hours	15 mg every 24 hours

Since urinary excretion is also a major route of elimination of stavudine in pediatric patients, the clearance of stavudine may be altered in children with renal impairment. Although there are insufficient data to recommend a specific dose adjustment of ZERIT in this patient population, a reduction in the dose and/or an increase in the interval between doses should be considered.

Hemodialysis Patients: The recommended dose is 20 mg every 24 hours (≥ 60 kg) or 15 mg every 24 hours (< 60 kg), administered after the completion of hemodialysis and at the same time of day on non-dialysis days.

Method of Preparation**ZERIT (stavudine) for Oral Solution**

Prior to dispensing, the pharmacist must constitute the dry powder with purified water to a concentration of 1 mg stavudine per mL of solution, as follows:

1. Add 202 mL of purified water to the container.

2. Shake container vigorously until the powder dissolves completely. Constitution in this way produces 200 mL (deliverable volume) of 1 mg/mL stavudine solution. The solution may appear slightly hazy.

3. Dispense solution in original container with measuring cup provided. Instruct patient to shake the container vigorously prior to measuring each dose and to store the tightly closed container in a refrigerator, 36° to 46° F (2° to 8° C). Discard any unused portion after 30 days.

HOW SUPPLIED

ZERIT® (stavudine) Capsules are available in the following strengths and configurations of plastic bottles with child-resistant closures:

Product Strength	Capsule Shell Color	Markings on Capsule (in Black Ink)	Capsules per Bottle	NDC No.
15 mg	Light yellow	BMS	60	0003-1964-01
20 mg	Light brown	BMS	60	0003-1965-01
30 mg	Light orange	BMS	60	0003-1966-01
40 mg	Dark orange	BMS	60	0003-1967-01

ZERIT® (stavudine) for Oral Solution is a dye-free, fruit-flavored powder that provides 1 mg of stavudine per mL of solution upon constitution with water. Directions for solution preparation are included on the product label and in the DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION section of this insert. ZERIT for Oral Solution (NDC No. 0003-1968-01) is available in child-resistant containers that provide 200 mL of solution after constitution with water.

US Patent No.: 4,978,655

Storage: ZERIT Capsules should be stored in tightly closed containers at controlled room temperature, 59° to 86° F (15° to 30° C).

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COMICS

Wonder Woman

◀ Arts cover

Marston saw educational value in this proletariat art. Wonder Woman imparted Greek wisdom while fighting crime, but bluenoses raised hell over her skimpy costume and her magic lasso, which they deemed an overt depiction of sexual bondage.

Wonder Woman endured and became a feminist icon in the early '70s, enjoying her greatest popularity on TV, where Lynda Carter played the star-spangled babe. The character was revamped in the mid-'80s, just as Jimenez came to his obsession. But her mission always remained the same: to pacify warlike men and achieve world peace.

Jimenez felt his idol could play a role in his own salvation. He devised a strategy: Go to college in New York to learn comic book illustration, then go to DC Comics to draw Wonder Woman. Beneath these pop-color daydreams lay a desperate motive: "If I did all these things and accomplished all these goals, then maybe being gay would be okay with my family."

Jimenez enrolled in New York City's School of Visual Arts at 19, studying under legendary cartoonist Will Eisner. But a lack of funds ended his education prematurely in 1991.

Here's where the comic-book plot kicks in. Three weeks after ejection from SVA, Jimenez heard from DC Comics, responding to a portfolio of drawings he had submitted cold. He was hired. His boss was a man named Neil Pozner, a muscled, goateed Chelsea type whose mandate as New Talent Director was to groom novices.

"The fun part of the story is that when I saw him, I fell instantly in love with him," says Jimenez. But, closeted, he held his tongue. Pozner, in turn, gave him choice work on *The Teen Titans* and *Robin*.

Strong graphics

Jimenez was not only young and hungry, but immensely talented. His strong art was ideal for this new era of "graphic novels." Artwork not only burst out of its restrictive square comic book panels, but subject matter also wrested free of convention. Not since the '70s had social awareness bled into comic tales; urban ills were common plotlines. Gays and lesbians were introduced, albeit as secondary characters.

Pozner played wise Batman to Jimenez' impulsive Robin, teaching him to spin comic tales with economy. When he was assigned another editor, Jimenez asked his former boss on a date. Pozner, whose openness at DC had made gay awareness workplace policy, hesitated; his protégé was more than a decade younger and still semi-closeted. But under the same nurturing that had marked their professional relationship, Jimenez blossomed into an openly gay man.

Here the happy tale stops short. Pozner had contracted HIV. Jimenez cared for him until he died in 1994, leaving his protégé a widower at 23.

Exhibiting the sure touch of an expert storyteller, Jimenez does not linger on mawkish detail. "I moved here, bound and determined to try and draw comics. I came out of the closet; I met my first boyfriend, who happened to be my boss. We lived, loved, he died. And then I ended up doing a big-deal comic book as a tribute to him."

Pozner, who had written *Aqualad* stories, assigned Jimenez a



Wonder Woman comics artist Phil Jimenez

revamping of *Aqualad*. The 1996 four-issue miniseries *Tempest* was nominated for an Eisner, the industry award named for Jimenez's former professor. But *Tempest* made comic book history in another way, for a message on its first page: "This miniseries is dedicated to Neil Pozner. I love you, big guy, and I miss you very much."

Jimenez elaborated in the letters section about his professional and personal relationship with Pozner, with the full blessing of upper management. "This is why I love DC Comics, because they let me do this, and they were utterly supportive."

His candor touched off a flood of letters from young readers taking their baby steps out of the closet. At age 26, Jimenez was a poster boy for the movement, adding red ribbons to his comic book signature. He recognized himself in the missives from newly-unshackled teens, and remains proud that the series helped readers "to lead more honest, giving lives and give them opportunities I've been blessed with."

Choice assignments followed, including *The Invisibles*, a tale of psychic anarchists, nominated for a 1997 GLAAD Award. Reteaming

with *Invisibles* writer Grant Morrison, Jimenez inked *She-Male*, the unlikely tale of a Brazilian boy who becomes a glamorous drag queen, a transvestite, and ultimately, a magician. But Jimenez kept focused on Wonder Woman.

He came closer to his goal two years ago, assigned a comic about Donna Troy, Wonder Woman's twin sister. But it lasted one issue. Jimenez never asked outright for Wonder Woman, keeping mum as other artists took over. The character had been overhauled in 1986, when her alias as Diana

Prince was scuttled and she was reconceived as a teacher and ambassador, not a superhero.

In subsequent makeovers, Jimenez contends, "she lost focus." When he was offered to draw his heroine, but not write the stories, he declined.

Last year, a love affair with *Trick* director Jim Fall convinced Jimenez to return to California, with the hope that adulthood and love were twin shields against his much-loathed homeland. "It was ill-conceived," he admits. "It all crumbled." Within six months, arguments trounced the relationship, Jimenez's grandmother suffered a heart attack and Jimenez contracted diabetes. Jimenez receded again into his fantasy world and conjured 12 stories about Wonder Woman, which he sent to DC for consideration. He was given a 12-book *Wonder Woman* assignment.

But DC insisted on three co-writers, still wary of allowing their wonderkind to fly solo. One colleague is the celebrated George Perez, whose *Wonder Woman* work in the mid-'80s is recognized as a high point in her legend.

Mythic roots

Trina Robbins, a veteran comic book writer-artist, would like to be convinced of a change for the better. For the last decade, she has found DC depictions of Wonder Woman demeaning, reaching a nadir with the big-breasted renderings by Mike Deodato. The writer of a Wonder Woman 1998 graphic novel *The Once and Future Story*, Robbins has been consistently disappointed. "I've picked up the occasional copy, sighed and put it down," she says.

Wonder Woman must be reconnected to her mythological ori-

gins, says Robbins. "She dealt with the gods," she points out. "She was on speaking terms with Athena and Aphrodite." Robbins examines the famous Amazon in her new history of women cartoonists and female characters, *From Girls to Grrrlz* (Chronicle Books).

Meanwhile, Jimenez fairly salivates in explaining that his series includes the 60th anniversary issue of *Wonder Woman*. He promises an explosive tale, based on a plotline dictated by DC Comics President Jeanette Kahn. Jimenez's debut, No. 164, entitled *Discordia*, hits newsstands on November 29. The title refers to a mammoth rumble, involving Wonder Woman and Batman against six of their worst nemeses.

"My hope is that with this run, since it's the 60th anniversary, I can bring in the best parts of every generation of Wonder Woman. Maybe even a nod or two to the TV show, to please everyone."

Pozner's legacy is evident. "I firmly believe that I have a responsibility as an out gay person to be political and to use my work in a political way."

Expect plots concerning women's rights and race issues, as well as gay themes. One major plot, however, has been overlooked: love. Wonder Woman has been romantically bereft for 15 years, since the end of her 40-year relationship with pilot Steve Trevor. While her battle cry of "Suffering Sappho" fueled speculation for generations, Jimenez will grant Wonder Woman a worthy boyfriend.

When his tenure at *Wonder Woman* ends, Jimenez says he will go peacefully, having paid a cosmic debt. Wonder Woman transformed his life; he has returned the favor. ▼

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PARTING GLANCES

18th/ Castro Thurs 10/12 10pm
You: tall, Black, handsome w/2 friends? Me: short hair blue shirt with 2 friends. We cruised shamelessly. I tried to catch up. Let's meet! ☎ 72514

Fuzio Castro Sun 10/8
Me: GWM, green plaid shirt-waited for table at the same time. You: attractive great smile & eyes-seated with book to me. Let's meet. ☎ 72515

Mon Oct 9: Seeking Asian Man
Yellow sweater, 16/Market walking to video store. Exchanged glances, walked together. Lost my nerve to speak. Movie? Call me please. ☎ 72516

8th & Market 10/25 U-White,
Grey-brn hair, brn shirt & Khakis. Me: blu jeans & blu sweater. Walked down 8th too shy to talk, wanna meet? ☎ 72569

Keith- Sat 10/14
Long shot- but it would make my month to hear from you! ☎ 72517

Chuck! We Met @ Steamworks
It was my birthday. "Wow!" Please call if you'd like to get together! Really can't stop thinking about you. ☎ 72537

Handsome Gent Castro 10/14
You: Black shirt, glasses, s&p hair walking around with friend. First spotting: Different light. Second: through Tolly's window while speaking to friend. Wanted to say more than "Hi". Can we? ☎ 72538

Macy's Stonetown 10/22
You: very sexy man, customer service, wearing shorts, goatee, tattoo on right arm. Me & my husband buying watchband. We exchanged smiles & spoke briefly. Coffee? Dinner? Wanna get together? ☎ 72539

Halloween Saturday Night
You are White, I am Asian. We smiled at each other while watching the cheerleaders. Would like to meet. ☎ 72574

Embarcadero Center 10/22 Tom
You: Tom from Richmond area, work for Big 5 firm in communications. Me: Tom too! You buying gift for niece. Would love to talk more. ☎ 72540

Rick On Baker St.
Congrats on getting reunited with your darlin' cat. Enjoy our conversation over Bandit and A.J. Give a call and introduce the cats to each other. ☎ 72568

Aquamarine Colt
33 bus stop @ 18th/Castro, 10/12, 3p.m. You: Wool-worthy dark good looks. Me: Blond, moustache, good glasses. Rendered stupid by desire. Wanna rectify? ☎ 72570

Lafayette/Park/10/12/10:30pm
Chris met, You: BM, only 3 wks. in SF., Me: W/ beard. We went to my place. You wanted to please me- you did, and more. Please call. ☎ 72572

Thai House On Market Fri 11/10
Your smile made for difficult dining, maybe next time we can be seated at the same table? ☎ 72615

Safeway On Market 10/22 9am
You: GAM approached me & said I was handsome. You wore a Hawaiian creations sweatshirt. Me: GWM with thick moustache. Totally flattered & temporarily me. Would like to meet & talk. ☎ 72573

"Night Child!!!!"
Incredible interaction at "Tuesday Suck" 10/10. You're amazing. I want to know more of you. We stared deeply & touched subtly but with power & intensity. Rarely have I found anyone to match me on that level, nor anyone as delightful as you. Please call. Whatever! ☎ 72541

"L" Taraval 10/14/ Noonish
You: Black hair/goatee, with black bag over shoulder, black note book; green t-shirt, jeans, Me: black shorts & blue long sleeve t-shirt, sandals, left ankle bracelet, s/p hair moustache. Please call! Bernardo ☎ 72571

ISO Michael 10/27 Metro
Your table was next to ours, me in blue short sleeve. As you left, you stopped and was introduced to our table with 8 people. ☎ 72593

Cute Curly Haired Dark Preppie Boy
Of Wh/Indian/Med/Latin looks? Sometimes preppie BM. We tend to see each other a lot in the Castro, B of A, me at bus stop, couple of times De-tour. Why don't we just say hello for starters? ☎ 72594

Jack London Square Sunday 11/5
Barnes & Noble coffee shop @ 2:00pm. You cute, red hair w/calculus book. Me: worried about backwards time travel. I felt a connection, did you? Please call. ☎ 72595

Rick @ Lonestar Sat 11-4-00 PM
Shy @ the bar? How about dinner? Or a drink? No prize tickets needed! ☎ 72596

Mint Bar "Blue Shirted Flasher"
You flashed me at door, on Halloween. Me blonde, bearded vampire in white & silver. My photo didn't come out, can I get a 2nd shot? ☎ 72597

Walking Down 18th Sun 10/29
We walked past each other, me: gray shirt, jeans. You: baseball cap, blue sweatshirt, backpack. We looked back a couple of times. Hope our paths cross again. ☎ 72598

Eric In The Edge On Halloween
Uncle Sam wants you. ☎ 72599

Handsome Asian Civic Cent 10/27
Like finding a needle in a haystack. Asian gent Civic Center 10/27 approx 8pm with an incredible walk. Interested in meeting? ☎ 72600

David Designer From Oakland
Martunis Monday 11/6. I was going to dinner with my boyfriend, you with your brother. I am now single. Wish we had talked more. Call me. ☎ 72613

"Got Candy?"
You: Black guy riding 38 Geary 11-12 5:30pm. We both got off at Presidio. Looked for you and lost you. Me: blue backpack. Call me! ☎ 72614

Glances At The Rhino 10/15
You: tall Asian w/ khaki cap; me white in purple shirt. Exchanged glances across the audiences, waves after the show, matinee on 10/15. ☎ 72616

Edlking Guy Driving Black Jetta
Wednesday 11/8 at 4:45pm north bound on 19th Ave. Short beard beautiful smile. Me, flat top, driving silver Daihatsu, racing thru traffic. Call me! ☎ 72617

Handsome Grayhair Man At Zuni
11/9, 6pm, across from each other in bar. You met friends for dinner. I met friends for drinks. We exchanged glances, and smiled when you left after dinner. I think you're sexy. Dinner at Zuni sometime? ☎ 72618

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

"East Bay Black Male Wanted!"
Goodlooking WM looking to service orally. I'm 6ft, 170lbs, 35, blk, blue, slache, hairy and masculine. You should be over 35, masculine, dominant, verbal, and in-shape. ☎ 72518

Romantic & Nasty Seeking Same
37y.o. hairy Italian top. 6', 200#, br/br ISO beefy, hairy bottom. If you are romantic yet nasty call for some cuddling & raunch! ☎ 72519

High Minded Chat
GWM, 27, 6', 170, b/b, seeking committed, spiritual, intellectual, sensitive GWM, 27-36. I like Henry James, poetry, jazz, outlaws. No dot-coms! Maybe we could discuss our book projects. ☎ 72520

Maybe LTR
Oral and active, into outdoors and cozy nights, good music. 6', 190 HIV-, over 60. Seeking oral and cuddly 45-70, for fun, maybe LTR. ☎ 72581

Need A Caring Uncle or Friend?
Sincere WM, young 48, tall, trim, HIV negative seeks rather slim/skinny Asian, White or Latino male 18-38 for nephew, friend or lover. Movies, dinner, out exercise, snuggling, massage. ☎ 72582

GWM Seeks GAM For Possible LTR
GWM 30ish looks 20ish very attractive, not into clubs seeks skinny nerdy 20-30ish attractive, intelligent GAM. Enjoy fun and romantic eyes. You won't be sorry. No heavy drinkers, drugs. ☎ 72580

New Leather/Diaper Boy In Town
Cute, trim, GWM, 40, 5'9", HIV-, seeks LTR with health conscious, caring diverse daddy. Boy enjoys museums, Discovery Channel, long walks, Exploratorium, quality conversations, two-stepping, safe sex & kink. ☎ 72524

Alla That's Alright, But...
Seeking open-hearted Black man for steady companionship sex, weekend excursions, quiet pleasures. Me: GWM, 40, tall, muscular, lean, brown/blue, goatee, mostly top. Enjoy theatre, music, reading, outdoors, dance. ☎ 72521

Hot Bottom Looking 4 Asian Top
Latin, muscular, masculine 36yrs-old-158ht-160wt, u-not older 40yrs young look nice, masculine medium body. Live here in SF. I prefer Japanese, Vietnamese, or Filipino. No divas, a nice boy, boy, boy! ☎ 72522

Sr. GWM ISO Younger M.O.C.
Seeking younger Asian, Black, Hispanic, healthy, cuddly sex partner. Everything (safe) goes except penetration. All body types. I'm professional, healthy, 69y/o, 5'4", 123, trim. ☎ 72523

Impossible Dream?
GBM, early 50's tall, good-looking bottom wants to meet tall White top guy who is intelligent, secure, sexy and who has integrity. ☎ 72525

Attractive Castro Professional
Very bright, humorous, playful, sentimental, world traveller, cook, gardener, loves to eat out, sexually versatile and hot, healthy HIV+, seeking LTR with similar man. ☎ 72542

Friends Or More
GWM 50, HIV- 6' 175# looks for same, not overweight 30-60 for friends or mongomous LTR. Like smoke ND. I'll respond. ☎ 72543

Cute, Tall, 30s, Cleancut, Pos GWM
6'2", 175 brown/blue. Versatile/bottom seeking cute younger hung top boy to hang out, sleep in, cuddle, watch movies, enjoy fires, eat like kings and fuck like rabbits. ☎ 72544

Baby Bear Seeks Playmate
Me: 48, 5'9", 180lbs. baby bear build, versatile furry, clean and sober. You: versatile, mostly top, drug free, horny, well hung a plus. ☎ 72545

Life Is To Be Shared
Prof. GWM 5'10"-145# in-shape 59, thinks like 40's, looking to share a great life with person who's at ease w/himself 40+ who has style & is caring. ☎ 72546

How About Some Bump & Grind?
GBM top 50 needs GWM bottom 50ish for hot sex and hanging out at my place, must be beefy and enjoy taking it. Smoke and aroma A+. ☎ 72547

Fat Is Beautiful
GAM 50's, 5'8", 125 looking for yng/old fat guy to pen-pals, exch, pic, w/possible lifetime partner. Pls reply w/your email or mailing address. ☎ 72576

The Country & The Magic Touch 1,2,3
HIV+, 45yrs, GWM, 195lbs, 6'3"/tall, med build brn/grn beard bottom. Sks: top hung attractive romantic height weight proportionate male for special rel. - Song "Mark Willis-Back at one" smoke open minded & spirited J.D. RWG ☎ 72577

Nice Bottom For Nice Top
GWM, 40y.o. wants to meet intelligent top for friendship and more. I am apprentice so be my sweet mentor. ☎ 72578

Asian Master/ 5'6", 140lbs 39yrs
Seeking young clean shaven slim to trim submissive White slave boy toy for topping, pain, pleasure, casual dating. ☎ 72579

I Know You're Out There!
Handsome, healthy, HIV+, successful, 40-something, muscular guy, 5'10.5", 165lbs, who enjoys life with comic intensity. Looking for someone my age or younger for passionate relationship. ☎ 72583

Seeks Asian Male
Attractive blonde college student 24 into volleyball and kickboxing. 5'11", 160# smooth chest. Bottom ☎ 72584

Sexual Craving...
Mature male will submit to dominant male. Is obedient and eager to please. ☎ 72585

GWM 31, 5'4" ISO Funny, Caring
Professional type for LTR. ☎ 72586

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Name _____ Daytime Telephone _____
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HIV+ Black Male Or Latino
Wanted by HIV+ blond/blue 5'10", 150lbs versatile bottom. 44yrs genuinely honest and loving, you be the same, I live in Paradise near Chico, am willing to travel, please call me. S 72601

Young Guy Seeks Relationship
Shy young cute guy desires relationship with old gentlemen- serious only. 72575

Seeking Asian Boyfriend
Muscular GWM, 43, in very good shape is wishing to date a smooth, in-shape Asian. 25-50. No games or B.S. Please only serious minded long term. 72602

East Bay Latino ISO Black Male
Attractive, 35, 5'9", 160, HIV-, smooth olive skin, youthful face, healthy lifestyle. ISO Black male, masculine, in good shape, top, under 45 for dating or possible relationship. 72603

Lonely? Looking For A Friend?
Shy GWM, 57, 5'10", 165#, in San Francisco looking for companionship with another man who may or may not have the same problem getting to know other people. 72619

Asian Guys In Stockings
Lingerie and heels turn me on! Butch WGM, 40, 6ft 2 in, 200lbs, HIV- neg dream girl with wardrobe for dating, safe fun. Be sweet, sincere. 72620

Classy Hndsm GWM 36 Seeks TLR
Me- attractive masc/muscular 6'1", 180, 44" chest, 32" waist, HIV- neg Bartender/student, tired of bar scene, loves music U-drk hair, drk eyes, warm heart, attractive, witty. 72621

SEEKING ADVENTURE

Voicesex Roleplay Dirtytalking
Bi male loves female voice, wishing sex talk and role playing on phone- from nice to naughty to nasty- your choice. Tell me all your dirty stuff secrets, confidentially. 72482

Slave Seeks Boyish Master
Me: fit 40yo- love cock worship, dog training, heavy humiliation, spanking etc. I will perform 4 you & your friend. You: young cute Asian, but not nec. 72526

Erotic Fun
White male, 53, seeks another White male, 40-60 for safe erotic fun. Prefer height between 5'11"-6'5", weight between 170-210. 72527

"Big, Hefty, Husky, Chubby, Fat!"
GBM, 5'11", 47yo, 250lbs, versatile, adventurous, seeks full-sized men with big tits, ass, legs, & thighs for sexual pleasure, must be discreet. Big men only! 72528

Tight Hairy Butt 4 Uncut Cock
34yo, 6'3", tall, muscular swimmers build, hairy chest, handsome, masculine, lt. brown hair/blue, hairy tight butt, hung 7.5", seeks uncut guys to service. 72529

Seeking Asian Or Latino Taps
Goodlooking healthy GWM, 38yrs, 6'1", 175lbs, seeks similar masculine Asian or Latino top 20-30 for safe good times. 72530

Handsome Hung Italian
Super endowed 10" seeks another HIV negative extremely well hung man for oral sex. 72531

Naked On The Toilet
Fantasy scenario: straight trim guy 43 walks and finds you on the toilet, humiliates you verbally abuses you, and makes you suck. You are trim and under 42. 72532

Gang Bang My Asshole
Caucasian, shaved, bearded bear, 49, I'm on my belly waiting for ass-fucking studs to play my ass. Cum with other studs watching! 72533

Poz GBM Sks GWM Top
38, 165lbs, 6ft, smooth, masculine but submissive behind closed doors. Tell me how you want me to take it. 72534

Opposites Attract
Masculine, big-dick Italian top gets hard for in-shape, small dick, bubble butt, bottom-boys, any race, under 40. 72548

Str8? Gr8!
Getting your best yet won't turn you gay! You'll love shooting your max for creative cocks sucking that won't quit. Uncut a plus, (sweatballs? licked off). 72549

Love To Suck
GWM 50 non gym 6', 190lbs loves to suck dick any race/age 7" or better. Lay back. Downtown location. 72550

Adventure Cuming Gr Tampa Fla.
GWM 37 br/bl moustache goatee 5'8", 30, HIV+ healthy 8cut cock. All answered. 72551

Hairy Men Of Color
Hairy muscled GWM, 47, 5'8", 140, ISO muscled hairy- chested African American, Latino, Arab men for heavy pecwork, 69ing, and butt-banging, no LTR, poz, UB too. 72588

Cuddly Fit Latin Bottom
Sought by attractive, fit, healthy POZ WM, 160, 6ft, 45y.o. You're affectionate, fit, under 45. Your place a big plus for safe hot time. 72552

"Got Cheese!"
GWM 50, 6' loves man smells any age, race, 7" or more. Long over hang a real plus. 72553

I'm The Pepper, You're The Salt
Horny 47 year old East Bay top enjoys seeing a light skinned oral expert down on my big thick chocolate stick. No voicemails, pagers or games please. 72554

You Never Be Disappointed!
Handsome sex great-shape beefy 30s GAM with talented deep-throat, sks HIV- thick & hung 8+ hot masculine muscular in-shape GWM/GBM for fun on a regular basis & friendship. 72555

Milkman Seeks A Good Gum-job
If you're a "tooth-less tiger" and can deep-throat a big plunger head, you might get more than you thought you would. 6', 42, 170lbs. of laid-back man. Long chewing sessions a plus! 72556

I Want To Taste Dark Meat
Bi, WM new to scene, curious to taste dark meat of older Black men (50's, 60's seniors)-clean and considerate please- no druggie or weirdos etc. Will serve you orally. 72557

GWM 45 Looking To Meet Men
40+ for play & dating. Me 5'9" 180 med ok shape br br into feet & other oral fun. Friendly with nice feet A+. 72559

GBM Needs A Top To Stay Warm
It's getting cold out and I need a man to keep me warm. I'm poz, 6ft, 210lbs, hairy. I'm easy going and looking for the same. 72587

Take Off Ur Shirt & Breath Deep
Muscle guys 25-35 wanted for phy exam. His/Asian/ dk hair A+. Stress test & rectal exam. Must have nice muscle. chest to listen to. Masc, bit, top DR, WM 40, 6', 180. 72604

WM Needs Asian To Fuck My Face
Bi-curious WM seeks Asian to fulfill my fantasy- of your fast fucking my virgin throat concluding with my sucking your balls while you jo your load on my face. 72605

Beer Porno And BJ For Seniors.
Strip naked, kick back and enjoy a drink and porno while masculine WM sucks your cock in return for your finishing by jacking off your hot load on my face. 72606

Hot Box For Hot Shots
Attractive 40-something Latino bottom guy wants to hook up with hung top guys for regular sex encounters. Let's be buddies. 72607

Swimmer Seeks Surfer To Dive
For pearls, dine on oysters, pry tight claims. Spandex swimsuit vs. rubber wetsuit. Muscles & big kanua A+. No sponges or shipwrecks. 72608

Masculine Manpussy 4 Hung Tops
White male, 35, loves to party, seeks domination by 1 to 4 thick hung tops. Me, oral, versatile, in-shape, nice cock. Possible bondage/ dildo/FF. I love come. East Bay A+. 72622

Poz GBM Sks GWM Top
38, 165lb, 6ft, smooth, masculine but submissive behind closed doors. Don't be PC. Tell me how you want me to take it. 72623

"I Am One Of A Kind!"
My throat is like butter- deep throat- bottom 37, tats, shaved head-(-) 185lbs seeks masculine man to service(-). 72624

Big Man For You
Hugs & kisses come first. LTR. Me: attractive oral-topman, 50, 6'5", 350lbs. You: attractive, GM, 21-40, slim. 72558

"Spank Me!" Cute Little Fratboy
24 needs over the knee action from dominant big brother or daddy. Gym body in the Castro. Bottom boy. 72625

ISO Poz Marin/Sonoma FuckBuddy
For fun or poss. ltr. 51yo GWM, 5'10", 160lbs, s/p buzz, moustache, uncut ISO early guy who enjoys vers. oral sex & fucking a hot bottom. 72626

Total Anal Bottom Bear
Caucasian, 49, stocky, 5'10", 195#, talented asshole for your fucking pleasure! Shaved head, hairy, beard on my belly-waiting for you to cum, on top of me! 72627

FETISHES

Slender Ticklish Asian?
SWM ISO Asian man to be tied, tickled & teased. It can be slow and sensual or wild and playful! My fingers, feathery and tongue are ready. 72535

Enjoy Expert Urinal Service
Professional toilet seeks straights, bi, HIV- tops who desire kick back efficient service from a piss and cum hungry healthy bottom man- smells a plus- no perfume accepted. 72590

Body Shaving
Part or complete your limits respected free no money exchanged either way. Just enjoyment. Concord area leave message. 72560

Daytime Asshole-Eater!
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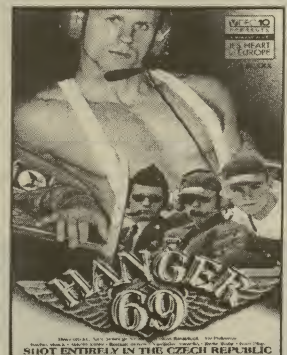
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Matt Shepard

◀ Arts cover

itics in the *Aftermath of Anti-Gay Murder* (Columbia) is Loffreda's account of how Shepard's murder altered the lives of Laramie residents, gay and straight, while placing their town on the same map that includes Littleton, Colorado and Falls City, Nebraska.

Loffreda describes visiting the Spic and Span Laundromat, where she meets a young man who comes as close to being a cowboy as anyone she would encounter in Laramie. Laramie's brief history as a cattletown ended ignominiously in the 1880s, when a fierce winter storm resulted in the deaths of hundreds of thousands of steers. The young man, an oil-field roughneck, might have been a ghost from that terrible winter, who would be repairing cars for a living, once he finished the course at the local community college, Wyoming Tech. As Loffreda chatted him up, the young man washed what looked like a two months' supply of clothes. "He told me he doesn't like gays, but that in his opinion Matt didn't deserve what happened to him: 'Those guys are assholes, beating on someone so small.' I asked him if he would react violently if a gay man approached him; he replied, 'Well, I wouldn't like it, but if he were smaller than me, I'd just tell him to leave. I wouldn't hit him.' 'What if he were bigger than you?' I asked. For the first and only time in our conversation he cracked a grin. 'Well, I guess I wouldn't hit him, either.'"

Unwanted attention

The news came to me the morning of October 12, 1998. As I was preparing to go on the air with a weekly gay radio show, the station broke in with an Associated Press story.

"A University of Wyoming student died early this morning of his injuries... Police say that McKinney and Henderson's girlfriends, Kristen Price and Chastity Pasley, are being charged as accessories after the fact, for providing alibis and helping hide the bloody clothes... Shepard apparently led an openly gay life at the university. McKinney's father claimed that the crime did not deserve national attention and was not motivated by hate, but that Shepard had embarrassed McKinney by flirting with him. President Clinton and Wyoming Governor Jim Geringer have both condemned the incident."

The national media did an OJ on the Laramie campus, a reporter forming a cross from stones at the fence where Shepard was slain. A



Matthew Shepard's killers Russell Henderson and Aaron McKinney

New York City theatrical troupe dubbed itself "The Laramie Project" and started spinning Laramie's collective memories into an oral-history version of *Our Town*, and again the actors fixated on the metaphors surrounding crucifixion.

During the first two decades of my adult life, I slept through a series of political murders: two Kennedys, King, Malcolm X, Medgar Evers, a gay gardener the press dubbed "Mr. Greenjeans," and finally Harvey Milk. Now, for the first time, I found myself weeping during a newscast. On December 28, my friend, the poet John Gilgun, and I conducted a program in memory of Shepard, whose murder I fabled "a crucifixion." Gilgun's poem opened with the line, "Shepard's face had been washed free of blood by tears."

Practically everybody involved in telling Matt Shepard's story wanted to portray him as Christ-like, a little lamb who died for our sins and our political salvation (the passage of laws calling for enhanced penalties for hate crimes). Loffreda says she wanted to strip away all the metaphors from the story of Matt's death, especially the metaphor of crucifixion. "I just try to leave the reader with the incomplete fragmented heap of facts that we have about that night, not because the risk of metaphor is always politically reprehensible, but simply because to me, metaphors were obscuring the things I wanted to learn about Laramie. One of things I wanted

to know was, what was gay life like there? Not just gay death."

Why Matt?

Loffreda notes that, besides Matthew Shepard, there were 33 other gay murders in 1998. "Matt's murder was followed, just a few months later, by a beheading in Virginia of a gay man, and other crimes that matched the brutality of Matt's death, so I was fascinated by the question of why Matt."

"Clearly, you can't detach it from the fact that the media swept down upon him because he looked like the presumed center of American life: white, male, well-to-do, young. One of the reasons he appeared so often on MTV in their ads against hate

crimes was because he matched, in his photogenic qualities, that kind of pop culture creation.

"But I don't want to sound entirely cynical as to why Matt became this object of identification for so many," Loffreda says. "For many people who have gone through the struggle of coming out, Matt reminds them of that moment in their lives when they were just getting to invent themselves. In that way, he reminded me of almost all my college students, not just gay students. I think a number of gay and lesbian organizations seized upon Matt as an uncomplicated and unthreatening symbol for the fight for bias crimes legislation. Many, consciously or not, thought, 'He will not scare straight people.' He looked so small, so vulnerable, so young — he was constantly represented as a kind of desexualized creature."

Loffreda roamed past the media boundaries for the story, and talked to some of Laramie's other dispossessed citizens. "Jay, a Shoshone-Northern Arapahoe-Navajo American Indian born on the Wind River Reservation in the center of Wyoming, is talking to me about the limits of identification. 'If that was me hung on the fence, they'd just say, oh, another drunk Indian. No one would have paid much attention.' Jay (also gay) tells Loffreda that he feels some sympathy but little kinship for Matt."

The hard part

The hardest question in the book was not one asked by Loffreda. "If you don't admit that Matthew made a mistake in that bar that night, you can't understand the big picture of being gay in Wyoming." These are the words of Jim, a fiercely opinionated gay man who lives with his partner Travis in Wyoming's biggest city, Cheyenne. Jim and Travis tell of a

Wyoming where gay men find companionship mostly at rest stops and on the Internet; of men who are afraid of parking near each other's houses, or even renting a silly movie like *The Birdcage*.

"There was no place for Matt to go and be gay, be out, be comfortable," Jim adds. Mark, a gay man who grew up on a ranch near Cheyenne, says something similar when I talk to him later that summer: "I don't think that Matthew Shepard kept the way he was hidden, which I think, for Laramie, took an awful lot more guts than I ever had. I know that bar, I wouldn't have gone in there. And I think I'm a little better capable of defending myself than the average stranger." Loffreda confides that Judy Shepard, Matt's mom, told her that her son sometimes deliberately took risks in order to prove to himself that he was safe.

Loffreda argues that the media invasion, triggered by the metaphors that sprung from Matt's death, for a time created a second Laramie, a weird doppelganger to one she lived in, a Laramie that could proclaim that it was "What America Once Was." A Laramie where John Wayne might still walk tall. A Laramie that for a brief time became a kind of Solid Gold weekend of American culture used for varying purposes by the likes of Elton John, Peter, Paul and Mary, and Ellen DeGeneres.

In the end, this infomercial to catharsis faded too, replaced, Loffreda hopes, by the kind of quiet, quirky activism of LGBT members like Kathie Beasley. "She wrote to me, 'I can honestly say that I have grieved over his death as though he were my friend. Matt is dead, but I'm still alive. There are reasons for everything, and I'm not saying that his death made me an activist. But I do carry his spirit in my back pocket now.'"

Mamma Mia!

◀ page 31

struggling taverna, her daughter Sophie has sent invitations to her wedding to three of her mother's former lovers, each of whom could be her father. Sorting out paternity, mother-daughter relations, and who will eventually get married is the stuff of Johnson's book, which can be corny and obvious, but which never squanders its good will.

Women on top

The cast is curiously uneven, with the men outshining the women in the chorus, but the women scoring over the men in the principal roles. Many of the

players are Canadian veterans, hitting the road after opening the show in Toronto, and none shines brighter than Louise Pitre as Sophie's increasingly frantic mother. Pitre is a powerhouse as Donna, both as an actress and a singer, and her mature charisma gives the show whatever heft it has.

Tina Maddigan, as daughter Sophie, is a spirited performer with a strong voice. More woman power is provided by Mary Ellen Mahoney and Gabrielle Jones as two hot-to-trot wedding guests who used to be in a glam-rock trio with Donna, and it doesn't take much coaxing to get them to don their old costumes for an impromptu reunion.

None of the men in Sophie's life are nearly so appealing. Her

possible fathers" — Gary P. Lynch as a stalwart American, David Mucci as a blustering Australian, and Lee MacDougall as a prissy Englishman — don't possess the skill or the charm to transcend the limited material. And while Adam Brazier as Sophie's fiancé is great to look at, a high-pitched voice undermines the effect.

Mamma Mia! is canny enough to trump its heartwarming finale with a curtain-call mini-concert complete with replicas of the outrageous costumes the ABBA members once wore. It's a move guaranteed to get the audience on its feet, and, too soon, on its way home with a smile on its collective face and 22 songs swirling ever-so-insistently in its head. ▼

What's Cooking?

◀ page 33

"We always have three different Thanksgivings," she says. "We have one in the daytime with Paul's father and his wife, which is a very traditional Thanksgiving where we go around the table and say what we're thankful for and have very traditional food. Then in the evening we have one with Paul's mother, who is Japanese-American, and that's a big kind of free-for-all with a lot of people and a lot of food, and there's always sushi on the table, and Paul's Korean Auntie Sue always brings some kind of Korean dish as well. And at the weekend, we always have a third Thanksgiving with Paul's mother's friends. These are women — most of them teachers — who have all been friends for the last 20-odd years and always get together as a

family of friends to celebrate Thanksgiving together."

Chadha says the Rachel character in *What's Cooking?* is directly based on her lesbian friend Sally.

"She was never really able to tell her parents what was going on [with her pregnancy] and sort of lied all the way through about having a one-night stand and all the rest of it, until finally the baby was born and she just came out with it," Chadha remembers. "It was having the baby that sort of gave her the strength, and I was so moved and touched by that whole experience. I consider Hamish my son in many ways, so I wanted to make a film where he would feel, in many years to come when he's an adult, that he's as valid as anyone else."

Sedgwick and Margulies were among Chadha's first choices to play the lesbian couple.

"Initially, we had wanted Julianna to play Rachel and Kyra to play her *goya* girlfriend, but Kyra said, 'I'm Jewish, and I'd really like to play the Jewish daughter,'" she says. "And Julianna was very keen to, you know, butch it up a bit and play the girlfriend after so many years of going out with George Clooney [on *ER*]."

The two actresses took their roles very seriously, even going undercover as lesbians as research.

"Julianna and Kyra spent lots of time going to lots of [lesbian] bars in New York, and that is of course where Julianna got the whole dress code and insisted on the tattoo on her arm," says Chadha. "I think what was really nice when they were going around to the clubs is that so many women came up to them and were like, 'We knew it! We knew you were gay!' I think they felt really great about being seen as lesbian icons." ▼



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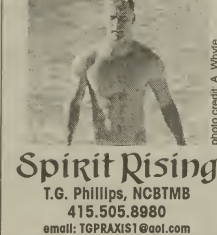
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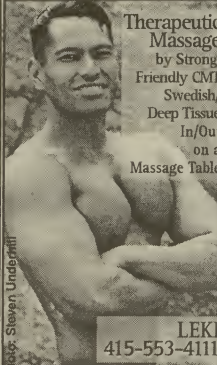
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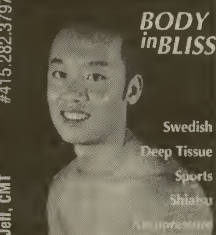
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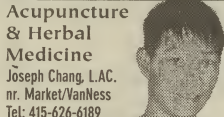
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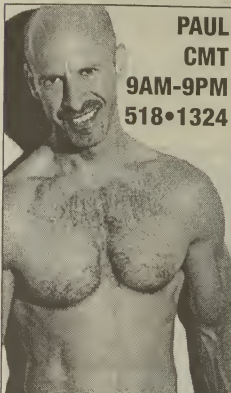
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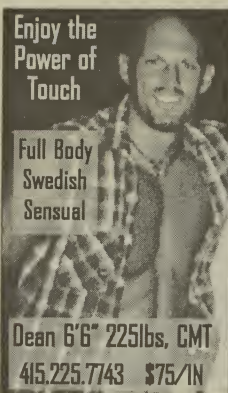
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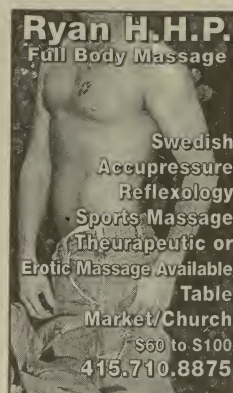
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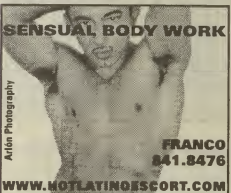
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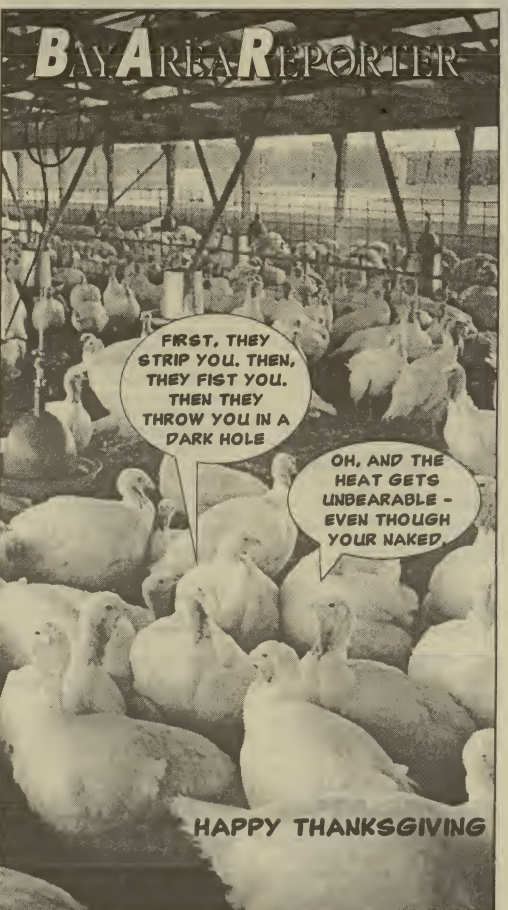
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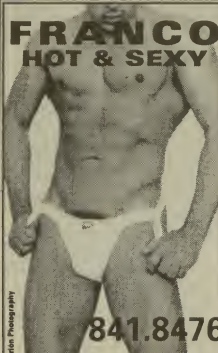
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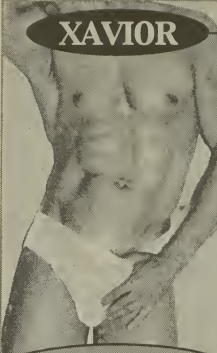
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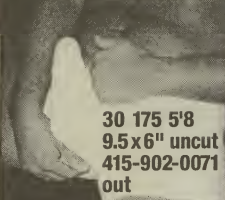
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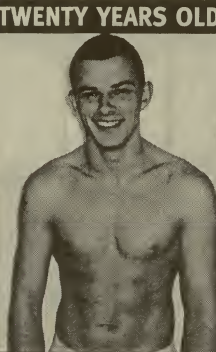
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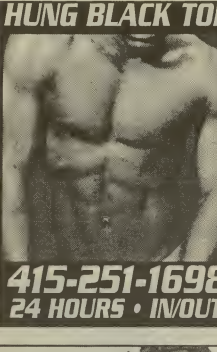
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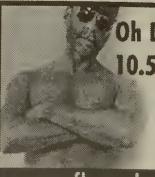
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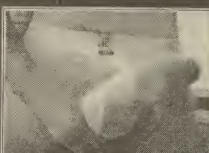
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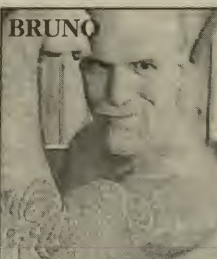
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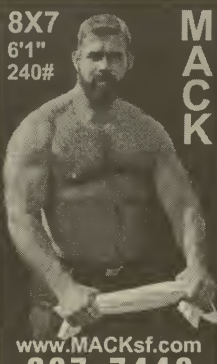
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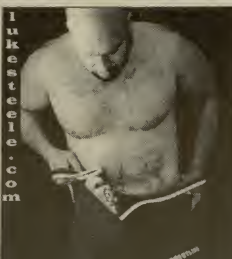
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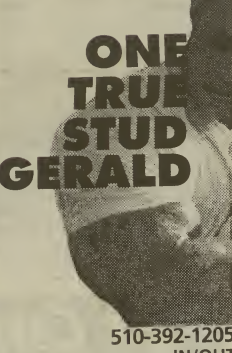
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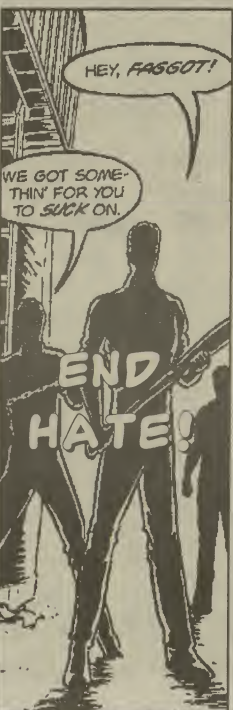
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